

استاد لانه جاسوسی

شماره ۳۷

(مسلکهای سیاسی استعمار)

دانشجویان مسلمان پیرو خط امام



In the name of Allah
the most

Compassionate and Merciful

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Continuation Sheet

CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN

Report No. 2 758 0052 77

Page 2 of 3 Pages

Classification/Control Markings

Originator: DET 1, USAF, USAID, USAID/NSA

22. ISRAEL: (C//NOFORN)

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a. The religion of Bahaism in Iran continues to increase numerically and exert influence at the policy levels of the Government of Iran (GOI). Membership in the Bahai sect includes such personages as LTC Abdol Karim AYAMI, the personal physician to the Shah of Iran; LTC Fereydoun DJAM (Retired), the Iranian Ambassador to Spain; the Shah's son's senior tutor who is a practicing Bahaiist and a personal friend and associate of LTC AYAMI; at least one Imperial Iranian Armed Forces (IIAF) Division Commander; and several IIAF personnel from mid and lower level to senior staff and line officers.

b. The current growth of Bahaism appears to be attributed to the influence of LTC AYAMI with the Shah, who apparently has given tacit approval to the general worship of Bahaism. This allegedly has resulted directly in advances obtained in women's suffrage, land reform, and education. Supposedly these programs reflect doctrines of Bahaism more closely than the Moslem faith.

c. Public practice of Bahaism is still limited; however, there appears to be a lessening of the stigma once attached to such membership. Mobs appear to be vehemently anti-Moslem and blame the Shiite Moslems for hindering Iran's modernization by utilizing the traditional minded Shiite religious leaders to exploit the illiterate peasant populace.

d. Although not readily identified outside of the Bahai community, there are several important Bahai shrines in Iran. This low profile is maintained to avoid possible conflict with the Moslem populace. The principal Bahai building is located on Takhte Jamshid Avenue in Tehran and serves as an information center. Approximately ten-twelve years ago during an out of country trip by the Royal Family, this building was attacked (MFI) by Iranian Shiite Moslems. Bahaists believed that, at that time, the Shah did not have the firm military support which he enjoys today and as a result was forced to soften his support for Bahaism. Land is being acquired in Tehran for the construction of a permanent and more appropriate place of worship. Immediate construction of such an edifice, however, appears unlikely due to political and religious considerations at this time.

ORIGINATOR'S COMMENTS: (C//NOFORN)

a. Reporting Officer obtained the above information from a senior Iranian military officer who has personal knowledge of such information. It should be noted that source himself is a rabid follower of Bahaism and his opinions as to the degree of influence Bahaists exert on GOI policy should be considered with this background in mind.

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Classification/Control Markings

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Continuation Sheet

CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN

Classification/Control Markings

Report No. 158 005

Page 3

Originator DIT

CONFIDENTIAL

22. DETAILS: ORIGINATOR'S COMMENTS (C/NOFORN) (con't)

(Leave Blank)

b. Bahaism originated during the mid-19th century in Iran. It emphasizes personal ethics and has the aim of attaining universal peace through conversion to Bahaism. Although very small in numbers, the Bahai community is well educated and engaged primarily in business or the professions.

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Classification/Control Markings

TELEGRAM

1978 NOV 28 PM 1:08

INDICATE
 COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

11650

FROM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SUBJECT: CONFIDENTIAL TEHRAN 11650

ACTION: E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IR
SUBJ: STATUS OF BAHAIS
REF: STATE 296186

POL:3

AMB
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TABR

1. BAHAI SITUATION IN IRAN HAS MARGINALLY IMPROVED SINCE REESTABLISHMENT OF DEGREE OF ORDER BY NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT. THERE REMAINS MAJOR DEGREE OF HOSTILITY AGAINST BAHAIS, PARTICULARLY ON PART OF ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS OPPOSITION, WHICH IS LEADING ELEMENT OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO SHAH AND GOI. GOI HAD RECOGNIZED THIS PRESSURE AND BAHAIS ARE STILL BEING DISMISSED FROM GOVERNMENT JOBS. SEVERAL DOCTORS AT GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS WERE DISMISSED LAST WEEK, ACCORDING TO PERSIAN FRIENDS WHO KNOW THE INDIVIDUALS. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO OPEN STREET HOSTILITY TOWARD BAHAI SECT BEING MANIFEST AT THE MOMENT. BAHAI TEMPLE HAD MILITARY GUARD DURING RECENT DISTURBANCES, BUT AS FAR AS WE KNOW THERE WERE NO ATTACKS AGAINST IT IN RECENT MONTHS.

2. WE UNDERSTAND BAHAIS ARE LEAVING IRAN, BUT SOME

DRAFTED BY: POL:JDStempel DRAFTING DATE: 11/28/78 TEL. EXT.: 1112 CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: MIN:CWN:AS

CLEARANCES: POL:GBLambrakis
ECON:CTaylor (contributor)

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION

3

OPTIONAL FORM 152(H)
(Formerly FS-413(H))
January 1975
Dept. of State

PROMINENT ONES DO REMAIN. LOWER MIDDLE CLASS BAHAIS AND TELL US HARASSMENT FROM MOSLEM NEIGHBORS / ~~COOPER~~ PROSELYTIZING MULLAHS INCREASED THROUGH OCTOBER BUT HAS EASED OFF SINCE GENERAL AZHARI BECAME PRIME MINISTER. NO CONNECTION IS ALLEGED, BUT SOME SAY THAT MOSLEM OPPOSITION IS NOW FOCUSING ON CONFRONTATION WITH GOI DURING MOHARRAM (ADDING THAT IF KHOMEINI "WINS," BAHAI SITUATION IN IRAN WILL BECOME INTOLERABLE).

3. WE BELIEVE DEPTOFFS COHEN AND PRECHT TOOK RIGHT LINE ON POTENTIAL FOR POSITIVE USG ACTION. SINCE U.S. IS SEEN AS SUPPORTING GOI, ANY PUBLIC ACTIONS ARE LIKELY TO ENRAGE PRECISELY THOSE PEOPLE MOST LIKELY TO COMMIT VIOLENCE AGAINST BAHAIS. WE BELIEVE BEST POSSIBILITY FOR INFLUENCING SITUATION IN POSITIVE DIRECTION IS CONTINUED DISCREET DISCUSSION WITH GOI OFFICIALS ON NECESSITY TO PROTECT MINORITIES, COUPLED WITH REPEATED REITERATION TO OUR OPPOSITION CONTACTS THAT PERSECUTION/VIOLENCE AGAINST BAHAIS DOES THEIR CAUSE LITTLE GOOD. WE BELIEVE THIS REMAINS BEST POLICY FOR USG SPOKESMEN AT HOME AS WELL.

4. COMPLICATING FACTOR IN SITUATION IS FACT THAT SOME BAHAIS PARTICIPATED IN WHAT ARE SEEN AS EXCESSES AND CORRUPTION OF PAST FEW YEARS. PERHAPS THE MOST NOTABLE BAHAI BUSINESSMAN CASE IS PROMINENT INDUSTRIALIST/FINANCIER HOJABR YAZDANI, WHO HAS BEEN HELD SINCE AUGUST ON CHARGES

OF FRAUD AND ILLEGAL USE OF GOVERNMENT LANDS. ~~WHEREAS~~
~~WHEREAS THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT THE~~ WE HOPE
DISTINCTIONS WILL BE MADE BETWEEN THOSE WHO MAY BE
ARRESTED AND TRIED FOR POSSIBLE CORRUPTION OR OTHER
SPECIFICALLY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AND GENERAL PERSECUTION
AGAINST SECT. CONCERNING THE SABET FAMILY WE UNDERSTAND
ALL KEY MEMBERS ARE OUTSIDE IRAN: IRAJ IN SWITZERLAND,
HARMOZ IN THE U.S. AND THE FATHER, HABIB, BETWEEN NEW
YORK AND SWITZERLAND.

SULLIVAN

APOL 13-6d

ON 1/1/68

EMBASSY TEL
STATE WASH DC
A ET PERMAN 00421

1468
OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF OF POLICE
DISPATCH

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-442100) (P)
FROM: AMEMB, WASHINGTON (100-442100) (P)
SUBJECT: PERSECUTION OF BASAL COMMUNITY

1. (S - ENVI: PER: REPORTING TABLE.)

2. THE BASAL PEOPLE'S PARTY (SERIOUSLY PROTECTED) INFORMED ENVOY
THAT HE HAD BEEN CALLED BY ONE OF THE NINE "NINE MEN" OF
THE BASAL COMMUNITY REGARDING RECENT ACTIONS BY THE NEW
REGIME. THE BASAL SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE
COMMUNITY FEELS THAT IT IS BEING STRANDED ADMINISTRATIVELY,
FINANCIALLY, AND FINANCIALLY, AND IS FACING THE WORSE CRISIS
IN ITS 120 YEAR HISTORY.

3. ENVOY SAID THAT HE HAD DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING
SEVERAL OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN
AGAINST THE BASAL COMMUNITY. ON JUNE 8 THE SO-CALLED
CONFISCATED GOODS COMMITTEE OF THE POOR PEOPLE'S
ORGANIZATION WAS AUTHORIZED TO CONFISCATE ALL PROPERTY
OF THE BASAL NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. A LARGE PORT OF
THE BASAL ISLANDS (ABOUT 100 MILLION SQUARE METERS CLOSE
TO BAYAN COLLEGE, OWNED BY THE SHERKAT CHARGES (INDUSTRIES
COMPANY), HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS AS A
TRAINING FACILITY. THE SHERKAT COMPANY HAS BEEN A MAJOR
BASAL COMPANY BUYING PROPERTY ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY.
THE OFFICES HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY THE REVOLUTIONARY
GUARDS AND THE MEMBERSHIP LISTS AND FINANCIAL RECORDS
HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED. THE ASSETS, AMOUNTING TO ABOUT
10 MILLION RIALS, OF THE BASAL COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN
CONFISCATED ON JUNE 12. THIS COMPANY HAS
BUILT SEARCHHOUSES. THE MAIN BASAL HOSPITAL IS STILL
OPEN, BUT THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE IS CONSIDERING
CLOSING IT. NINE CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE BEEN DISMISSED,
SPECIFICALLY ON THE GROUND THAT THEY ARE BASALIS.
4. ACCORDING TO THE BASAL SPOKESMAN, TWENTY BASALIS ARE
IN PRISON. IN 25 VILLAGES, 8,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN
HOMELESS AFTER THEIR HOUSES WERE BURNED. IN ADDITION,
ABOUT FIFTY MILES OUTSIDE OF QOM ON THE ROAD
TO KASHAN, FIFTY BASALIS WERE FORCED TO CONVERT TO ISLAM
AT BIFE POINT.

5. THE BASALIS VIEW THESE ACTIONS AS ONLY THE FIRST STAGES
OF A CONSCIOUS POLICY AND PROGRAM OF PERSECUTION. WHEN
THEY EXPECT THAT PERSONAL BANK ACCOUNTS OF BASALIS WILL
BE CONFISCATED, THEY ALSO ARE EXTREMELY WORRIED THAT
THERE WILL BE VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST THEM ON JULY 10
DURING THE FASTING MONTHS OF RAMAZAN, WHICH STARTS
ON JULY 12 IS THE BIRTHDAY OF THE MISSING IMAM

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SECRET

TOP SECRET

S E C R E T

TEHRAN 6421

TWELFTH). THE LEADING AYATOLLAH IN SHIRAZ HAS
SAID THAT HE INTENDS TO CELEBRATE THIS DAY IN THE
BAHAI TEMPLE IN SHIRAZ. THE FEAR IS THAT HE WILL
GIVE A RISKY ANTI-BAHAI SERMON AND WHIP THE
CROWD INTO AN UNCONTROLLABLE FRENZY WHICH COULD LEAD TO
REPRODUCTION OF THE ANTI-BAHAI EVENTS IN SHIRAZ IN
1968, OR SOMETHING WORSE.

MR. PRYOR HAS BEEN ASKED TO TAKE A DETAILED SPEN-
REPORT TO BE SENT TO THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
TO MAKE THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO A NEWSPAPER IN
WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRY, PROBABLY SWITZERLAND. HE
PLEADED THAT THIS INFORMATION BE HELD VERY CLOSELY
THE TIME BEING, BECAUSE HE AND THE BAHAIS FEAR THAT
IT WOULD LEAK TO U.S. NEWSPAPERS AT THIS TIME, IN
A SERIOUSLY EXACERBATE THE ALREADY EXTREMELY DIFFI-
SITUATION FOR THE BAHAIS IN IRAN. NAAS

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TEHRAN 6421

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE 1475

SECRET STATE 146779

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NO. 12366 GDS 8/28/96 (RECHT, HENRY)

OS: PINR, PINS. SHUM, IR

SUBJECT: PERSECUTION OF BAHAI COMMUNITY

FI: TEHRAN 6421

SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

INFORMATION REPORTED RELTEL IS MOST DISTURBING. PLEASE OBTAIN AND POUCH TO US A COPY OF PRIOR REPORT. CAN EMBASSY OBTAIN INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION OF ANY OF THE ACTIONS OR THREATS DESCRIBED THEREIN? DO THE ATTACKS ON BAHAI HOMESDATE FROM BEFORE OR AFTER FEBRUARY? IS THERE ANY LEGAL BASIS FOR CONFISCATION OF BAHAI PROPERTY? IF SO, PLEASE PROVIDE TEXT IF AVAILABLE.

WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS AS TO MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PROCEEDING TO PROTECT BAHAIS. WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY PRIOR SHOULD BE SO SENSITIVE ABOUT PUBLICITY OF BAHAI PLIGHT AND WHY PLAN TO MAKE REPORT AVAILABLE TO EUROPEAN PRESS. HAS TLD EMBASSY HAD ANY DISCUSSIONS OF COMBITION OF BAHAIS WITH PROI REPRESENTATIVES? ARE THERE RELIGIOUS LEADERS WHO MIGHT INTERVENE IN THEIR BEHALF, SPECIFICALLY TO HEAD OFF POSSIBLE TROUBLE IN SHIRAZ. (EMBASSY EARLIER REPORTED IN

TEHRAN 5494 THAT BAHAIS IN SHIRAZ HAD NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED SINCE DECEMBER). DOES EMBASSY BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ENLIST SUPPORT OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN SUPPORT OF BAHAIS?

TEHRAN 4849 AND 4902 DESCRIBE OTHER INCIDENTS AFFECTING BAHAIS. ARE THESE COVERED IN PRIOR REPORT? VANCE

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SECRET

TEHRAN 6520

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ON, E/I

CLASS: SECRET
INFO: STATE 6421/79
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3 1 T TEHRAN 6500/1

15

1. RE: SDS 6/21/79 (ELEMENT, C.) GR-P
SUBJECT: PERSECUTION OF BAHAI COMMUNITY

2. (U) STATE 159779, (U) TEHRAN 6421

(S - ENTIRE TEXT)

3. SDS MET WITH PRIOR AGAIN JUNE 21 ON SUBJECT OF
PERSECUTION OF BAHAI COMMUNITY. BECAUSE PRIOR IS HAVING
TRAVEL MEETINGS WITH BAHAI LEADERS JUNE 21 AND JUNE 26,
A COVER IS AN INTERIM COPY TO STATE 159779.

4. PRIOR HAS PROMISED TO HOLD DOCUMENTS IN HIS POSSESSION
UNTIL AT LEAST UNTIL JUNE 25. HE IS STILL WORKING ON
REPORT, WHICH IS NOT COMPLETELY FINISHED DUE TO
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE THAT BAHAI LEADERS
ARE PROVIDING HIM.

5. CHERRY IS WORKING ON OBTAINING INDEPENDENT VERIFICA-
TION OF THE PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED ACTIONS AND THREATS.
HE SAID THAT ATTACKS ON SE VILLAGES TOOK PLACE BOTH
BEFORE AND AFTER THE RUHAYI REVOLUTION. HIS INFORMATION
COVERS THE JANUARY 1 - MARCH 15 PERIOD. HE WILL BE
PROVIDING WITH DETAILED SPECIFICS BY BAHAI LEADERS.
HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES MOST OF THE ATTACKS TOOK PLACE
AFTER THE REVOLUTION.

6. CONCERNING QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE IS A LEGAL BASIS
FOR CONFISCATION OF BAHAI PROPERTY AND ASSETS, PRIOR SAID
HE HAS A COPY OF A DOCUMENT DEALING WITH THE CONFIS-
CATIONS THAT WERE DESCRIBED IN TEHRAN 6421. IT IS A FORM
WHICH HAS THE NAME AND SEAL OF THE "CONFISCATED GOODS
COMMISSION OF THE FOUR PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION" IN THE UPPER
LEFT CORNER, A FILE OR LOCKER NUMBER IN THE UPPER
RIGHT CORNER, AND A SEAL STAMP ON THE BOTTOM. THE
FORM IS SIGNED BY A MASSOUMI, WHOSE TITLE IS
"SUPERVISOR OF THE CONFISCATED GOODS COMMITTEE." THERE
IS A SPACE ON THE FORM WHERE THE NAME OF THE PERSON
DELIVERED TO THE CONFISCATING AND THE NAME OR NAMES
OF THE ENTITIES TO BE CONFISCATED ARE ENTERED. THE TEXT
OF THE FORM INCLUDES THE FORMULATION: "IN ACCORDANCE WITH
ORDER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COURT YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO
CONFISCATE ... THE DOCUMENT THAT PRIOR HAS HAS THIS
NAME AND SPECIFICS THAT THE THREE ENTITIES, THE BEREHAT
(ANIMAL ESTATE COMPANY), THE NOW NAHALAM COMPANY
(INVESTMENT CO.), AND THE MISACHIE HOSPITAL ARE TO BE
CONFISCATED. AS MENTIONED, THE HOSPITAL HAS NOT YET BEEN

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TEHRAN 6502

ACTIVELY TAKEN OVER.

IT WOULD THEREFORE SEEM THAT, INsofar AS ANYTHING IS LOCAL IN TODAY'S IRAN, THE CONFISCATION OF THE ORDER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COURT IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE A LEGAL BASIS. THE FORM LETTER NATURE OF THE DOCUMENT RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT CONFISCATIONS ARE FREQUENT OCCURRENCES.

7. PRYOR IS SENSITIVE ABOUT PUBLICITY IN THE U.S. BECAUSE HE HAS GIVEN HIS WORD TO BAHAI LEADERS ON THIS AND BECAUSE HE AGREES WITH THEM THAT IT IS BETTER TO HAVE THE INFORMATION WIND UP FIRST IN EUROPE IN A NEUTRAL COUNTRY AND NOT IN THE U.S. SINCE IT WOULD IN THAT CASE AUTOMATICALLY BE LABELED AS A CIA PLOT. BASED ON OUR READING OF THE SITUATION HERE, WE MUST AGREE WITH PRYOR AND THINK IT WOULD BE MOST UNHELPFUL TO THE BAHAI'S TO HAVE IT COME OUT FIRST IN THE U.S. IN THIS REGARD, PRYOR SAID THAT HE AND THE BAHAI LEADERS HAD CONSIDERED THREE ALTERNATIVES-- EITHER THE NEWS THROUGH NEWSPAPER OR TIME, OR THROUGH THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, OR APPROACH THE UN THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS. THEY REJECTED THE FIRST AND OPTED FOR THE SECOND. THEY ARE NOT EXCLUDING PARALLEL HUMAN RIGHTS CHANNEL ACTION.

8. WE HAVE ASKED PRYOR TO DISCUSS WITH BAHAI LEADERS QUESTION OF WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE DONE TO PROTECT THEM. AS IN THE CASE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, WE FEEL THAT IT IS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO HAVE THE VIEW OF THE LOCAL LEADERS ON THESE MATTERS BEFORE EMBARKING ON ANY PARTI-

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THE ACTION PLAN. OUR INITIAL REACTION IS THAT THERE IS PROBABLY VERY LITTLE THAT THE U.S. CAN DO TO USUALLY TO HELP PROTECT THE BAHAIS. THE BAHAIS OF COURSE IN THE UNIQUE CATEGORY OF BEING CONSIDERED APOLITICAL AND ARE NOT AND HAVE NOT BEEN CONSIDERED A LEGAL RELIGIOUS MINORITY. THEY, THEREFORE, HAVE NOT ENJOYED ANY SPECIFIC CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES, NOR WILL ANY BE FORTHCOMING. EVEN THE SHAH FEELS WEIRD PROTECTED, SOME SAY FAVORED. NOW THAT THE ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS AND FANATICS HOLD SWAY, THE BAHAIS CANNOT COUNT ON MUCH PROTECTION OR COMPASSION. U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN A PUBLIC MANNER, SUCH AS A SENATE RESOLUTION ON BAHAIS, WOULD OBTAINFULLY BE SEIZED UPON AS AN OFFENSE AND WOULD MAKE THE SITUATION WORSE FOR THE BAHAIS. INTERNATIONAL ACTION BY CHURCH OR HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES, ESPECIALLY IF NOT US-ORIGINATED, COULD POSSIBLY BE USEFUL TO THE BAHAIS, AND COULD MORE SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY BE SUPPORTED BY WESTERN GOVERNMENTS. ONCE THE BAHAI QUESTION BECOMES AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE, IT WILL INEVITABLY ALSO TAKE ITS PLACE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN. SO FAR, ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT STATE DEPT MEMORY HERE, THE EMBASSY HAS NOT SPECIFICALLY DEALT WITH THE QUESTION OF THE BAHAI QUESTION. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN IT SPEAKS OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES TO THE GOVT, THE BAHAIS ARE INCLUDED. THE GOVT, OF COURSE, DOES NOT ACCEPT SUCH AN INCLUSION.

18. PRIOR WILL ALSO REVISIT QUESTION OF TRYING TO TURN OFF THE SWITZ JULY 18 EVENT, AND WILL LET US KNOW WHAT THE BAHAI LEADERS THINK. WE DOUBT THAT EFFORTS BY THE EMBASSY THROUGH ISLAMIC CHANNELS WOULD SUCCEED, BUT ARE HOLDING THAT OPTION OPEN. IN THIS REGARD, PRIOR RECOUNTED THAT THE BAHAIS HAD SENT TELEGRAMS TO THE FOURTEEN MOST INFLUENTIAL AYATOLLAHS PROTESTING THE CONFISCATIONS. THEY HAVE HAD NO REPLIES, AND FEEL THAT THEIR APPEALS ARE BEING SIMPLY IGNORED AS A MATTER OF POLICY, AS IF THEY DID NOT EXIST.

19. PRIOR HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT THE ISFAHAN EVENTS DESCRIBED IN TEHRAN 6582. TEHRAN 4942 HAS BEEN DESTROYED, AS ARE ALL CLASSIFIED OUTGOING CABLES AFTER THIRTY DAYS. DEPARTMENT SHOULD KEEP THIS PROCEDURE IN MIND WHEN RECEIVING CABLES.

20. WE WILL FOLLOW UP ON THIS MATTER AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH REVEREND PRIOR, AND OTHER CONTACTS WITH THE BAHAI COMMUNITY. LAINGEN

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TEHRAN 6755/1

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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF TEHRAN 06755

CLASS: SECRET
CHRG: STATE 6/28/79
APPRV: CHARGE:LBLAING
EFFTD: POL:CLEMENT:
CLEAR: POL:VITOMSETH
DISTR: POL-4 CHG

LIMDIS

E.O. 12065: GDS 6/28/85 (CLEMENT, C.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, IR
SUBJECT: BAHAI COMMUNITY SITUATION

REF: (A) STATE 158779, (B) TEHRAN 6421, (C) TEHRAN 6500

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. EMBOFFS HAVE OBTAINED INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION OF BASIC POINTS IN INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED BY REVEREND PRYOR AS REPORTED IN REPTELS. VERIFICATION COMES FROM FSN SOURCE WHO IS CONSIDERED KNOWLEDGEABLE AND RELIABLE. SOURCE IS WORKING ON SETTING UP MEETING BETWEEN EMBOFFS AND BAHAI LEADERS.

3. IN MOST RECENT DISCUSSION WITH PRYOR ON JUNE 28, HE SAID THAT CURRENT SITUATION OF BAHAI COMMUNITY SHOULD PERHAPS BE MORE APPROPRIATELY CHARACTERIZED AS ONE OF "HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION" RATHER THAN "PERSECUTION." BE THIS AS IT MAY, IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THE BAHAI LEADERS ARE EXTREMELY WORRIED AND SEE THEMSELVES FACING THE WORST CRISIS IN THE HISTORY OF BAHAIISM. EVERY DAY BRINGS ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF HARASSMENT.

4. THE BAHAI LEADERS ARE STILL HOPING THAT VIOLENCE CAN BE AVOIDED IN SHIRAZ ON JULY 10. THEY HAVE ASKED TO SEE PM BAZARGAN REGARDING THIS. MEANWHILE THEY DO NOT WISH TO PUBLICLY EXACERBATE THE ALREADY TENSE SITUATION. THEY HAVE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT THE USG NOT TAKE ANY ACTION AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN IRAN.

5. THE BAHAI LEADERS DO WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION IS SAFELY IN PLACE OUTSIDE IRAN SO THAT THEY CAN GO PUBLIC WITH THEIR STORY WHEN AND IF NEEDED. THEY HAVE ASKED PRYOR TO GO TO GENEVA AND ZURICH, AND HE WILL DO SO AROUND JULY 7. PRYOR WILL REPORT TO THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN GENEVA AND LEAVE DOCUMENTATION IN SAFE HANDS IN SWITZERLAND. HE IS AFRAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE SITUATION COULD BECOME SUBSTANTIALLY WORSE BEFORE THEN.

6. PRYOR PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION (WHICH WE HAVE NOT YET HAD TIME TO VERIFY FROM OTHER SOURCES) ON JUNE 28: OF THE ROUGHLY 400,000 BAHAIS IN IRAN, ABOUT 75,000 ARE IN TEHRAN. THE MASTER MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR TEHRAN WAS STOLEN ABOUT SIX WEEKS AGO. THE BAHAIS BELIEVE IT IS IN ISLAMIC HANDS, BECAUSE A NUMBER OF BAHAIS HAVE BEEN RECEIVING

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TEHRAN 6755/1

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TEHRAN 6755/1

LETTERS IN THEIR NAME AT THEIR HOME ADDRESS FROM THE ISLAMIC PROPAGANDA ORGANIZATION IN QOM STRONGLY URGING THEM TO CONVERT TO ISLAM. SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS HAVE BEEN BROKEN UP, AND FILES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. MEMBERS RELIGIOUS MEETINGS NORMALLY WERE ATTENDED BY 200 MEMBERS, THEY ARE NOW LIMITED TO 10-15 PEOPLE SO AS TO AVOID HARASSMENT.

7. TO DATE, THE PERSONAL BANK ACCOUNTS OF THE TOP 27 BAHAI LEADERS WHO MAKE UP THE NATIONAL COUNCIL HAVE BEEN FROZEN (PUT NOT YET CONFISCATED). TWO OF THESE LEADERS HAVE BEEN DENIED EXIT PERMITS, OTHERS HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN ONE. IN ADDITION TO PREVIOUSLY REPORTED CONFISCATIONS OF BAHAI COMMUNITY ASSETS, FOUR OF THE MAIN FIVE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS OF THE COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED. THESE BUILDINGS ARE VALUED AT BETWEEN \$70-100 MILLION. THE NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVANTS DISMISSED FROM THEIR JOBS SINCE EARLY DECEMBER ON THE SPECIFIC GROUND THAT THEY WERE BAHAI IS ABOUT 90, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION (DOCUMENTED) PROVIDED TO PRIOR.

8. THE BAHAI LEADERS DO NOT HAVE ANY REAL IDEA OF HOW MANY BAHAIS HAVE LEFT IRAN, BUT ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EXODUS HAS NOT SO FAR BEEN SIGNIFICANT. THE LEADERS ARE URGING THEIR MEMBERS TO STAY IN IRAN.

9. UP TO NOW THE ACTIONS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED PRIMARILY AGAINST THE COMMUNITY AS AN ENTITY, RATHER THAN AGAINST INDIVIDUAL BAHAIS--EXCEPT FOR THE FROZEN BANK ACCOUNTS OF THE LEADERS, DISMISSAL OF CIVIL SERVANTS, ATTEMPTS TO PRESSURE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS TO CONVERT, AND THE HARASSMENT OF RELIGIOUS MEETINGS. THE BAHAI LEADERS ARE FEARFUL THAT THE SITUATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WILL CHANGE FOR THE WORSE SOON.

10. NO BAHAIS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE POST-REVOLUTION ERA, AND NONE OF THE MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN EXECUTED WERE BAHAIS (IT IS AGAINST BAHAI RULES FOR MEMBERS TO BE ACTIVE IN POLITICS). HOPEFULLY THE SAME CAN STILL BE SAID AFTER JULY 10. BAHAIISM STARTED IN SHIRAZ IN 1844 WITH BAHAUULLAH PROCLAIMING HIMSELF AS THE MISSING

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TEHRAN 6755/2

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11. AS FURTHER INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE THROUGH OTHER SOURCES, WE WILL UP-DATE REPORTING ON THIS SUBJECT.

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TERRAN 6755/2

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 4698

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CHRN

E.O. 12865: N/A

TAGS: CUIS, IR, CE

SUBJ: INCREASE IN IRANIAN VISA APPLICANTS IN SRI LANKA

1. SINCE EVD OF AUGUST EMBASSY HAS OBSERVED DEFINITE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF IRANIAN NON-IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANTS APPEARING IN OUR CONSULAR SECTION. NUMBER OF APPLICANTS NOW AVERAGES FOUR PER WEEK AS CONTRASTED TO ONE EVERY TWO WEEKS PREVIOUSLY. SIX APPLICANTS CALLED ON CONSUL ON 9/10.
2. APPLICANTS USUALLY HAVE BEEN MALE STUDENTS IN EARLY 20'S, BUT THEY NOW INCLUDE BUSINESSMEN AND FAMILIES. THE IRANIANS EXPLAIN THAT SINCE U.S. VISA FACILITIES IN TEHRAN ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE, SRI LANKA IS A CONVENIENT PORT OF CALL FOR THEM. APPLICANTS SHOW EXTREME TENSION AND ANXIETY.
3. THUS FAR DOCUMENTATION APPEARS TO BE IN ORDER AND CONSUL IS ISSUING MAJORITY OF VISAS. APPLICANTS DISPLAYING GREATEST TENSION CLAIM TO BE MEMBERS OF BAHAI AND ZOROASTRIAN MINORITY GROUPS AND STATE THEY CANNOT RETURN TO IRAN BECAUSE OF PERSECUTION.
4. EMBASSY WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. ANY GUIDANCE AND INDICATIONS OF IRANIAN APPLICANT TRENDS ELSEWHERE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

WRIGGINS

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE 4546 ✓
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 241745

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E.O. 12065: GDS, 9/13/85 (CLEMENT, CARL)

TAGS: SHUM, SOFN, IR

SUBJECT: RUMORS OF ATTACKS ON BAHAIS IN SHIRAZ

REF: TEHRAN 10001

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. MR. GLENN MITCHEL OF THE BAHAI HIGH ASSEMBLY IN THE US (PROTECT), WHOM WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH BEFORE, CALLED NEA/IRN SEPTEMBER 13 TO SAY THAT DESPITE REUTERS STORY DENYING DESTRUCTION OF THE BAB'S SHRINE IN SHIRAZ, THE BAHAI'S HAD INCONTROVERTIBLE PROOF OF IT AND WOULD TRY TO GET ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPHS TO US.

3. ACCORDING TO MITCHELL, WRECKING CREWS HAVE BEEN AT WORK OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS IN RAZING THE BUILDING AND ARE PROBABLY STILL DOING SO. WE KNOW THAT THE SHRINE IS NOT EASY TO LOCATE, BUT WOULD IT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR ONE OF THE SHIRAZ CONSULATE NATIONALS TO TRY TO CHECK ON THE STATE OF THE SHRINE?

4. MITCHELL ALSO CLAIMED THAT THERE HAS BEEN A GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT RECENTLY GIVING THE NAMES OF THIRTY BAHAI'S WHOAREPROSCRIBED FROM LEAVING IRAN AND WITH WHOM NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO HAVE ANY DEALINGS. ACCORDING TO MITCHELL, THE GOVERNMENT, OR PEOPLE CLOSE TO GOVERNING RELIGIOUS CIRCLES, ARE IN THE PROCESS OF FABRICATING EVIDENCE REGARDING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, BUSINESS CHEATING, CORRUPTION, AND INVOLVEMENT WITH THE PREVIOUS REGIME OF BAHAI'S SO THAT THEY CAN THEN BE TRIED BY REVOLUTIONARY COURTS ON THESE GROUNDS RATHER THAN FOR BEING BAHAI'S.

5. ANY INFORMATION THAT EMBASSY CAN DEVELOP ON SITUATION OF BAHAI'S WILL BE APPRECIATED. VANCE

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE 4562
CONFIDENTIAL STATE-244704
E.O. 12865: G/S 9/17/85 (CLEMENT, CARL)

INFO: SHUM, SOFN, IN
SUBJECT: STATUS OF BAHAI SHRINE IN SHIRAZ
REF: (A) STATE 241745, (B) TEHRAN 10001

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)
2. CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES HAVE BEEN FLOODED WITH TELEGRAMS AND LETTERS FROM BAHAI'S IN THE U.S. CONCERNING THE REPORTED DESTRUCTION OF THE BAHAI'S HOUSE IN SHIRAZ, WHICH IS BEING CHARACTERIZED AS THE HOLIEST SHRINE OF THE BAHAI'S.
3. WE URGENTLY NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT FROM EMBASSY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE RESPONSES TO NUMEROUS QUERIES FROM CONGRESS.
4. SINCE SHIRAZ RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS OFFICE OFFICIALS ALLEGEDLY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE RAZING OF THE BUILDING, IT MAY BE APPROPRIATE TO RAISE MATTER WITH MINACHI AND/OR YAZDI, EXPRESSING THE WIDE-SPREAD CONCERN HERE AND THE NEGATIVE EFFECT HARASSMENT OF BAHAI'S WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE ON THE AMERICAN PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION.
5. FYI. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME RUMELINGS ABOUT A SENATE RESOLUTION ON THIS MATTER. WE KNOW THE IRANIAN EMBASSY ALSO HAS BEEN INUNDATED WITH CALLS AND LETTERS. END FYI.

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CONFIDENTIAL

TEHRAN 10284

DE RUQMR #0294 263 **
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10284

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
CHRG: STAT 9/20/79
APPRV: CHARGE:LBLAINGE
LRFTD: POL:EASWIFT:GO
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: POL2 CHG ICA
ECON CONS CHRON
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R.O. 12065: GDS 9/29/85 (SWIFT, ELIZABETH A.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, IR
SUBJECT: BAHAI'S IN IRAN

REF: STATE 246627

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT MOUNTING PRESSURE BY BAHAI'S IN US MAY WELL RESULT IN CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IN FORM OF RESOLUTIONS AND IN DEMANDS THAT EMBASSY OR STATE TAKE SOME ACTION ON BEHALF OF BAHAI COMMUNITY.

3. OF THE MAJOR RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN IRAN, THE BAHAI'S, AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, ARE THE ONLY GROUP NOT RECOGNIZED OR GIVEN SOME FORM OF OFFICIAL SANCTION BY PGOI. BAHAI'S AS YAZDI HAS TOLD CHARGE ARE CONSIDERED A POLITICAL GROUPING. MAJORITY SHIITE COMMUNITY IN IRAN REGARDS BAHAI'S AS HERITICS WHO ARE OPENLY DESPISED. (SOMEWHERE BETWEEN A SNAKE AND A COCKROACH IS THE USUAL DESCRIPTION). BAHAI'S FAVORED POSITION UNDER THE SHAH MEANS THAT MANY ARE SUSPECT BY THE PGOI AS WELL FOR CORRUPTION OR OTHER ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES.

4. BAHAI COMMUNITY IN IRAN IS PERSECUTED TO EXTENT THAT THEIR BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN SEIZED, THEY ARE FEARFUL OF MEETING OPENLY AND SOME HAVE PROBABLY LOST JOBS OR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES BECAUSE OF THEIR RELIGION. SOME HAVE ALSO BEEN JAILED, PROBABLY MORE BECAUSE OF THEIR PAST CONNECTIONS TO THE REGIME THAN THEIR RELIGION. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, HAD NO REPORTS OF BAHAI BEING KILLED RECENTLY, ALTHOUGH IF THERE WAS A MOB ATTACK IN SHIRAZ, WHICH WE TEND TO DOUBT, WE WOULD NOT DISCOUNT THIS POSSIBILITY.

5. MEMBERS OF JEWISH COMMUNITY HERE DEFINITELY FEEL THAT INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON PGOI HAS HELPED TO PROTECT IRANIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY. WE WONDER, HOWEVER, WHAT THE EFFECT WILL BE OF SIMILAR PRESSURE ON THE PART OF THE BAHAI'S.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT CHECKING WITH LEADERS OF BAHAI COMMUNITY IN US TO SEE THAT THEIR ACTIONS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT AT REQUEST OF OR WITH CONSENT OF LEADERS OF BAHAI COMMUNITY HERE. LAINGEN

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TEHRAN 10286

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10286

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
CHRG: STAT 9/20/79
APPRV: CHARGE: LBLA
DRFTD: POL: EASWIFT
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: POL2 CHG EC
ICA CONS CH
RF

E.O. 12065: GDS 9/20/85 (SWIFT, ELIZABETH A.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, IR
SUBJECT: IRANIAN BAHAI'S

REF: STATE 146627

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT).

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1977-243-303

2. EMBOFF TALKED WITH NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR AUGUST 20
ERE BAHAI'S. AMBASSADOR HAD TALKED WITH A MEMBER OF
BAHA'I LEADERSHIP COUNCIL GHADDEMI (PHON) TWO DAYS AGO.
GHADDEMI SAID BAHAI'S WERE NOT CERTAIN WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE
FOR DESTRUCTION OF BAB'S HOUSE. LOCAL MULLAH ON/ABOUT
SEPT 6 DEMANDED FROM BAHAI'S IN SHIRAZ AND WAS GIVEN
KEYS SO HE COULD "PROTECT" HOUSE. ON SEPT 8 ACCORDING
TO GHADDEMI, GROUP OF ABOUT 100 MEN, SOME ARMED,
ATTACKED HOUSE WITH HAMMERS AND SPENT ALL DAY SYSTEMATI-
CALLY DEMOLISHING IT.

3. GHADDEMI ALSO TOLD AMBASSADOR HE DID NOT THINK
BAHA'IS IN LARGE CITIES WERE IN ANY DANGER OF LIFE.
SECURITY SITUATION IN RURAL TOWNS FOR BAHAI'S WAS,
HOWEVER, RISKY. NO BAHAI'S HAVE BEEN KILLED RECENTLY;
BAHA'I PROPERTY AND COMPANIES HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED
AND SOME BAHAI'S HAVE BEEN JAILED ON WHAT GHADDEMI CALLED
TRUMPED UP CHARGES. ABOUT 100 BAHAI'S HAVE BEEN DISMISSED
FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

4. GHADDEMI APPARENTLY AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR THAT
NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY INTERVENTION IN TEHRAN MIGHT NOT
BE HELPFUL BUT WAS DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN STIRING
UP INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN BAHAI'S. GHADDEMI SAID
BAHA'IS HAVE SENT MANY LETTERS TO PRIME MINISTER
BAZARGAN BUT THEY HAD BEEN IGNORED. LAINGEN
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TEHRAN 10286

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

(K9)

October 3, 1979

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OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
CONFIDENTIAL

Ms. Ann Swift
Political Officer
American Embassy
Tehran, Iran

Dear Ann:

Thanks -- as I leave for NYC meeting -- for your letter of September 23. You all have done good work on the Baha'i question and it has enabled us to satisfy our many callers from the Hill and within the American Baha'i community. It is strange that the press has paid virtually no attention and the Congressional interest has seemed perfunctory -- compared to past experiences.

All of us here and others around the town are deeply appreciative for the fine work POL is producing. It has been a long time since Embassy Tehran had such a competent political section. (Stop preening and start sending us memcons.)

Tell your Farsi colleagues on the front lines we stand behind them. }

Sincerely,

Henry Precht

CONFIDENTIAL
GDS 10/3/85



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
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October 11, 1979

Ms. Ann Swift
Political Officer
American Embassy
Tehran

Dear Ann:

Henry has already answered your letter on the Baha'is, but I want to follow-up on it with a few lines. First of all let me echo Henry's praise for current reporting by the political section. I hope that you, too, will soon have a chance to do some traveling in Iran and that the section as a whole will take every opportunity that presents itself for taking the political pulse of the provinces.

On the Baha'is, I am sending along copies of some documents that we have received from the Baha'i National Assembly here. The paper put out in Switzerland is in fact one prepared by Reverend Bob Pryor. He carried it to Switzerland in July after discussions with Victor and me about the subject. His role should, of course, be kept quiet.

I note in the New Zealand Ambassador's cable that you sent us a copy of, that Ghadimi had fully accepted the suggestion of the New Zealand and British Ambassadors that a coordinated and well publicized campaign of protest from Baha'i communities around the world could be useful. While I do not believe that we should get into the business of suggesting to Ghadimi what to do, we should continue to make sure that we are fully informed about the views and plans of the Baha'is in Iran. Therefore, we would urge you and Victor to keep in touch with Ghadimi.

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GDS 10/11/85

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As a final point, let me alert you that yesterday the Head of the Assyrian Church had a meeting with the Vice President. We do not have a report yet on what transpired, but it would not surprise me if you were asked to report on the Assyrian situation.

With the very best of regards to all of you,

Sincerely,



Carl Clement
Deputy Director
Office of Iranian Affairs

Enclosure.

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TEHRAN 11042

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CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
CHARGE: STAT 12/03/79
APPROV: CHARGE: LHM:AIN
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CLEAR: POL:HP:R:EC:R
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0 7 I D A K T I A L TEHRAN 11042

INFO: SES 12/03/85 (TOMSETH, VICTOR L.) OR-P
SUBJ: SHYM, IR, PINS, PINS, COMS
SUBJECT: BAHAI COMMUNITY SITUATION

INFO: (A) TEHRAN 0001, (B) TEHRAN 0700, (C) TEHRAN 0001

(C - ENTIRE TEXT).

LEPTOFF PRECHT AND POLCOONS MET WITH Y.K. GHADIMI, MEMBER OF THE IRANIAN BAHAI NATIONAL COUNCIL, OCTOBER 02. DISCUSSION PRODUCED LITTLE SUBSTANCE NOT PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED (REFERENCES) ASIDE FROM GHADIMI'S STATEMENT THAT "SOME MEMBERS OF THE BBOI AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF EXPERTS CURRENTLY DEBATING IRAN'S DRAFT CONSTITUTION HAD SHOWN SYMPATHY TO THE BAHAI COMMUNITY'S POSITION." HE ANTICIPATED THAT SUCH VIEWS WERE REFLECTED IN THE PUBLIC OPINION PROVIDED THE RUINS OF THE HOUSE OF THE BAH (REBUILT 1970) FOLLOWING THE BUILDING'S DESTRUCTION IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HAD INSTRUCTED THE MAYOR OF SEIRAZ TO PREVENT EVENTS WHICH HAD "INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS."

GHADIMI AGAIN STRESSED THAT THE FOCUS OF BAHAI ACTIVITIES IN IRAN LIES IN SECURING FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICES FOR THE COMMUNITY'S CIVIL RIGHTS. HE STATED THAT THE SYMPATHY HE RECEIVED TO MIGHT, INDEED, BEGAN AN "IMMEDIATE POLICY REVIEW" WITH IRAN'S CURRENT LEADERSHIP. HE REMAINED CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT FOR THE MOMENT THE BAHAI COMMUNITY IS THE TARGET OF A CAMPAIGN OF "ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL REGULATION." HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE BAHAI LEADERSHIP WOULD BE PRESSURED AND IS NOT ENCOURAGING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO LEAVE IRAN. HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED BY THE USG. MAINBODY

U.S. Government Printing Office: 1975-204-830

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TEHRAN 11042

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P1

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Iraj Farnoush, Recruiter, Iran Electronics Industries
Sandra L. Mendyk, Vice Consul, Shiraz

DATE & PLACE: November 2, 1978, Shiraz

SUBJECT: Religious Intolerance in Iran

DISTRIBUTION: AMB/DCM INR/RNA/SOA for ORDA/SOA
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USIS Amconsul ISFAHAN
CONS Amconsul TABRIZ

Mr. Farnoush is one of several members of Shiraz's Jewish community who have recently inquired about immigration to the United States at the Consulate in Shiraz. After nine years of study in the United States, Mr. Farnoush returned to Iran to accept what he terms a very good job at Iran Electronics Industries. When asked why he wishes to leave Iran, he replied that as a member of a religious minority the future here looks grim. He asked if there weren't some provision of United States immigration law which permitted members of persecuted religious groups to obtain immigrant visas more easily than the average applicant.

He stated Shiraz's Jewish population of approximately 10,000 is extremely nervous about recent manifestations of religious intolerance in Iran by Moslem fundamentalists, a group he described as volatile and unpredictable. Especially concerned are older Jews who still remember the holocaust of the World War II period.

Mr. Farnoush noted that though religious discrimination is less overt in Shiraz than in certain other cities in Iran, it still exists. For example, his sister, a nurse at Nemazi Hospital in Shiraz, has learned that a petition is being circulated by Moslem fundamentalists demanding Jewish and Bahai employees of the hospital be fired.

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He said some Jews here are talking of emigration to Israel, while others are looking to the United States as a safe-haven. He stated a substantial group, however, hasn't this option because of binding ties in Iran. Those, for example, whose wealth is tied up in land have found no buyers for their properties. For them there appears no alternative but to ride out Iran's present social and political crises and hope for the best.

SLMendyk; slm; 11/5/78

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F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 03379

12065: XGDS 1/8/95 (LAMBRAKIS, GEORGE B) OR-P
PINT, IR
CT: STATUS OF MINORITY GROUPS

CHRG: STATE 1/8/79
APPRV: DCM: CWNAAS
EFTD: PCL: GBLAMBRAKIS
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: POL-3 AMB DCM
ECON-2 PM ICA
OR ADM SY DAO
AFOSI CHRON/15

TO BEST OF EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE THERE HAVE BEEN NO MORE
SPECIFIC ATTACKS ON BAHAIS OR OTHER MINORITIES
AS TO THE LOOTING AND DESTRUCTION OF BAHAI PROPERTIES
TAKING PLACE IN SHIRAZ ON DEC 13 (TEHRAN 12342). NCR HAVE
OWNED BANKS OR SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS BEEN TARGETS OF
VIC ATTACK AS THEY HAD BEEN IN BEGINNING OF TROUBLES
MONTHS AGO. WE HAVE HEARD NO RECENT STORIES OF
DESTRUCTION OF JEWISH SHOPS OR HOMES IN PROVINCIAL CITIES.

NEVERTHELESS, MINORITIES HAVE NOT BEEN EXEMPTED FROM
THEIR KNOCKS ALONG WITH OTHER PORTIONS OF POPULATION,
FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS THEY ARE SCARED. SOME (JEWS)
HEARD DARK TALES OF HOW BAD THINGS WERE BEFORE THE
REV. OTHERS (BAHAIS) FEAR A KHOMEINI VICTORY WILL
PROGROMS AIMED AT PEOPLE LIKE THEMSELVES. THE
BAHAIS ARE KEEPING A LOW PROFILE SINCE HAVING RECEIVED
THREATS OF DEATH TO PEOPLE WHO COOPERATE WITH
THE REGIME. ATTENDANCE AT CHURCHES HAS DROPPED CONSIDER-
ABLY. ZOROASTRIANS ARE ALSO WORRIED. ALL MINORITIES
THE UNKNOWN IF THE SHAH DEPARTS -- AND MOST SEE HIS
FUTURE HAND-WRITTEN ON THE WALL.

ACCORDING TO THE UNOFFICIAL ISRAELI MISSION HERE,
2-10,000 JEWS HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY, LEAVING A
REMAINDER OF 70,000 OR SO. SPOT CHECKS OF NIV ISSUANCE
RECORDS IN EARLY NOVEMBER FOUND MINORITY APPLICANTS
AMOUNTING AT 30-40 PERCENT OF TOTAL, WITH JEWS MAKING UP
THE MAJORITY OF THOSE MINORITY APPLICANTS. THESE PER-
CENTAGES APPEAR TO BE SUBSIDING SOMEWHAT IN JANUARY, AND
THE ASSUMPTION IS THAT MOST OF THOSE WHO WERE SCARED
BY EVENTS LEADING UP TO ASHURA TO GO HAVE ALREADY
OBTAINED THEIR VISAS. A NUMBER OF JEWS WITH
RESOURCES HERE ARE TRAVELING TO U.S. OR ELSEWHERE TO
EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES ON THE GROUND BUT RETURNING
AND THEIR BUSINESSES FOR THE TIME BEING. MANY OTHERS
DO NOT HAVE ANYWHERE TO GO AND NO MOVABLE WEALTH TO
TAKE ELSEWHERE WITH. THEIR ONLY OPTION IS TO KEEP
THEIR HEADS DOWN.

NOTE: WHEN A REPRESENTATIVE OF WORLD JEWRY FROM FRANCE
MET THE AMBASSADOR ON QUICK FACT-FINDING TRIP A FEW
DAYS AGO, HE EMPHASIZED THE DESIRE OF JEWS TO STAY IN
ISRAEL. REPRESENTATIVES OF ISRAELI MISSION HERE, ON THE
OTHER HAND, TEND TO EMPHASIZE IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS THE
DANGER OF BAHAI WHICH ARE LEADING JEWS TO EMIGRATE.
A LOT OF JEWS GO FIRST TO ISRAEL AND THEN FIND IT
DIFFICULT TO GET VISAS FOR THE U.S. OR GO ELSEWHERE. WE
DO NOT KNOW IF THERE MIGHT NOT BE AN ELEMENT OF POLICY INVOLVED

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TEHRAN 03379

C O N F I D E N T I A L

TEHRAN 0379

IN THE ISRAELI MISSION'S RELATIVE ALARMISM ABOUT THE SITUATION HERE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IF ONE CONSIDERS THAT MOST OF THE JEWS WHO MANAGE TO LEAVE ARE MIDDLE-CLASS PEOPLE WITH SKILLS AND SOME FINANCIAL MEANS. THE TYPES OF IMMIGRANTS ISRAEL HAS LONG BEEN ATTEMPTING TO ATTRACT. —

END FYI SULLIVAN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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E.O. 12958 GDS 1/22/85 (PRECHT, HENRY)

TAGS: CVIS, IR

SUBJECT: CONTINUING CONCERN FOR SAFETY OF IRANIAN JEWS

(C) ENTIRE TEXT

1. GROUP OF IRANIAN-AMERICAN JEWS CALLED TODAY ON NEA/IRN TO DISCUSS STEPS THAT WE MIGHT TAKE TO ASSIST IRANIAN JEWS. THEY IMMEDIATELY AGREED WITH US THAT ANY PUBLIC MOVES COULD HAVE THE COUNTEREFFECT OF JEOPARDIZING THE WELL BEING OF THE COMMUNITY IN IRAN. WE ASSURED VISITORS THAT WE WERE KEEPING STATUS OF IRANIAN JEWS UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW AND THAT EMBASSY WAS REPORTING FREQUENTLY. WE GAVE THEM A BRIEF RUNDOWN ON LARGE NUMBERS OF JEWS WHO WERE RECEIVING VISAS.

2. WE PROMISED TO RAISE WITH THE EMBASSY TWO STEPS THAT IT MIGHT CONSIDER IN ISSUANCE OF VISAS. FIRST, WE AGREED THAT UNLESS EMBASSY OBJECTED I-20 FORMS COULD BE SENT TO THE CONSULATE DIRECTLY TO CONGEN GOELZ OR VIA NEA/IRN, CONSULATE WOULD MAINTAIN THESE PAPERS ON FILE UNTIL APPLICANTS CALLED. SECONDLY, WE SAID WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY CONSIDER NOTATIONS IT MADE ON VISAS WHICH IN EFFECT EXCLUDE VISITORS FROM CHANGING THEIR STATUS (FOR EXAMPLE, JEWISH STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE A B-2 VISA WITH A NOTATION THAT STATUS CANNOT BE CHANGED FIND IT DIFFICULT TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES HERE AND AT THE SAME TIME FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO RETURN TO IRAN). WE ARE REPORTING THIS CONVERSATION WITHOUT ANY INTENTION OF INTERFERING WITH VISA OPERATIONS. WE SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT THE EMBASSY REVIEW ITS OPERATIONS TO ASSURE THAT THE CONCERN OF JEWISH GROUPS FOR THE SAFETY OF THEIR COMMUNITY IS APPROPRIATELY REFLECTED IN EMBASSY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

3. IN ADDITION, WE ARE WORKING WITH INS WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING FOR IRANIANS THE SAME KIND OF LIBERALIZED PROCEDURES THAT WERE IN EFFECT FOR LEBANESE DURING THAT CRISIS. VANCE

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E.O. 12065 GDS, 5/10/85 (GREENE, MYLES)

TAGS: SHUM, IR

SBJCT: STATUS OF JEWISH COMMUNITY (C) ENTIRE TEXT

1. PROMINENT MEMBER OF LOS ANGELES JEWISH COMMUNITY, OSIAS G. GOREN, HAS CALLED ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN ABOUT FORMER'S UNDERSTANDING OF RAPIDLY DETERIORATING STATUS OF TEHRAN JEWISH COMMUNITY. LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY HAS REPORT BY TELEPHONE FROM TEHRAN, FOLLOWING ELGHANIAN EXECUTION, THAT MANY MEMBERS OF TEHRAN JEWISH COMMUNITY BEING PICKED UP AND ENTIRE COMMUNITY IS IN DANGER. APPEAL TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY WAS FOR IMMEDIATE USG ACTION.

2. IN LATER CONVERSATION, GOREN TOLD DEPOFF HE COULD NOT DISCLOSE NAME OF THE TEHRAN JEW WHO HAD REPORTED THE MANY ARRESTS SINCE ELGHANIAN EXECUTION. GOREN DID SAY HE WOULD HAVE FURTHER TELEPHONE CONTACTS WITH THE TEHRAN SOURCE AND IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF LATTER COULD CONTACT SOMEONE IN EMBASSY. DEPOFF GAVE NAME OF JOHN STEMPEL.

3. PENDING ANY CONTACT BETWEEN STEMPEL AND UNNAMED TEHRAN SOURCE OF THESE REPORTS, APPRECIATE IMMEDIATE REPORT ON JEWISH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING ELGHANIAN EXECUTION. FOLLOWING IS LIST OF JEWS SAID TO BE IN DETENTION:

-- KHALIL NAHAI - BUSINESSMAN

-- MORAD DANIEL-POUR - NEPHEW OF LOTFALLAH HAY, EX-MAJLIS MEMBER

-- MR. COHEN - CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WOLLEL BONEH, ISRAELI FIRM

-- YUSSUF COHEN

-- KHANBABA SHIRAZI

-- PARVIZ HAY - BELIEVED TO BE PERSON IN GREATEST DANGER

-- ALBERT DANIELPOUR

-- RON HABIB (SPELLING)

-- MR. KUKENOUR (SPELLING)

-- MR. ARGAEI (SPELLING)

4. HAVE ADDITIONAL PERSONS BEEN ARRESTED SINCE ELGHANIAN EXECUTION? ARE THERE SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING OTHER RELIGIOUS MINORITIES? WHAT IS REACTION OF PGOI TO FOREIGN OUTCRY OVER ELGHANIAN EXECUTION?

5. WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE, CONGRESS, AND THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF INTENSE CONCERN ABOUT STATUS OF IRANIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY. PLEASE SLUG REPLY FOR WHITE HOUSE AND D. VANCE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 125857
V.O. 12065 GDS, 5/17/85 (PRECHT, HENRY)

TO: SBUM, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN JEWS

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S BEST INFORMATION OR
ADVICE ON FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN RAISED BY A
MEMBER OF CONGRESS.

3. STATUS OF YUSSUF COHEN. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT
COHEN IS A FORMER MAJLIS MEMBER WHO IS PRESENTLY UNDER
DETENTION. WE HAVE ASKED IRANIAN EMBASSY HERE; THEY WERE
UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION AFTER CONTACT WITH THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY. IF HE IS UNDER DETENTION, WHAT ARE THE
CHARGES AGAINST HIM AND WHEN WAS HE DETAINED?

4. ARE THERE ANY GENERAL OR SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WHICH
WOULD PREVENT RELATIVES OF HABIB ELGHANIAN FROM LEAVING
IRAN? SPECIFICALLY WE HAVE BEEN ASKED ABOUT HIS SON,
FERIDOUN, -AND DAUGHTER IN LAW ELIANI, AND NEPHEW
FAREMARZ. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S
RECOMMENDATIONS WHETHER A LETTER FROM MEMBER OF CONGRESS
ASKING THAT THEY BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE IRAN WOULD BE
USEFUL. ONE SUGGESTION IS THAT LETTER BE ADDRESSED TO
BROMINI AND CONTAIN GENERAL PLEA ON BEHALF OF IRANIAN

JEWS.

5. WE ARE PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL FOR EXCELLENT EMBASSY
REPORTING ON STATUS OF IRANIAN JEWS. JEWISH LEADERS
AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY APPRE-
CIATIVE FOR INFORMATION WHICH WE HAVE REGULARLY CONVEYED
TO THEM. PLEASE CONTINUE TO REPORT IN FULL DETAIL. VANCE

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STATE DEPT
TEHRAN 5441

TO: DIRECTOR, STATE DEPT (SCTMPL, J.D.) OR-P
FROM: TEHRAN, 5001, IN
SUBJ: IRANIAN JEWS
REF: STAT 15461

C - ENTIRE FILE; REPORTING CASES.

RELIABLE STATISTICS ON JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM IRAN ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS THAT JEWS THEMSELVES HAVE NO INTEREST IN ADVERTISING THEIR EXILES. FROM NUMBERS OF SOURCES, HOWEVER, WE CONCLUDE THAT BETWEEN 150 AND 200 JEWS PER DAY ARE LEAVING IRAN, INCLUDING ON CHARTERED VESSELS; ON LAND ARRANGEMENTS, ETC. HEAVY FAMILY REEMIGRATION IS BEING LEAVING - I.E., BULK OF THOSE DEPARTING ARE FAMILY UNITS.

DISCUSSION WITH ITALIAN AND AUSTRIAN COLLEAGUES TURNED UP FACT THAT COUNTRIES HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER IRANIAN JEWISH EMIGRATION TO POLAND IN PAST MONTH. IN AUSTRIAN CASE, AMBASSADOR DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM CHANCELLOR SCHUSNY TO IRAN-TO IRANIAN MINISTER SANJABI ONE DAY BEFORE SANJABI LEFT OFFICE IN APRIL. ITALIANS HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH POLAND RECENTLY. WITHIN FRAMEWORK, AUSTRIANS HAVE ALSO RECEIVED SAME ASSURANCE CONCERNING RECEIVED FROM IRANIAN MINISTER THAT THERE WAS NO REPT NO POTENTIAL AGAINST JEWS. ITALIANS DID NOT SAY FOR OR GET CATEGORICAL ASSURANCE, BUT THEY ALSO BELIEVE THERE IS NO CAMPAIGN AGAINST JEWS.

WE HAVE NO REPT NO NEW EVIDENCE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A HOLDUP IN ISSUING BIRTH PASSPORTS OR EMIGRATION VISA TO JEWS. ZIONIST LOTTING HAS, OF COURSE, COME UNDER FIRE AS RESULT OF ATTACKS AGAINST U.S. FOR JAVITS RESOLUTION IN SENATE. ASIDE FROM SHARPLY INCREASING NUMBER OF JEWISH COMMUNITY IN TEHRAN, ATTACKS ON U.S. HAVE NOT REPT NOT HAD ANY APPARENT IMPACT ON TREATMENT OF JEWS WHO WISH TO LEAVE IRAN. MAAS

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TEHRAN 5441

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... 5/25/79 (RUBENSTEIN, IRWIN) OR-P
... IS
... JEWISH COMMUNITY IN IRAN

1. (C- TIRE TEXT).

2. WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS ABOUT SITUATION OF JEWS IN IRAN, ALL OF WHICH REVEALED THAT THE GOI HAS VERY LIMITED INFORMATION. INFORMATION IS BEING OBTAINED FROM TRAVELLERS, THIRD-COUNTRY DIPLOMATS, AND EVEN FROM TELEPHONE CALLS FROM IRAN, BUT EVERYTHING THEY ARE RECEIVING SEEMS TO BE EXTREMELY SKETCHY.

3. ABRAHAM AMIT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF ABSORPTION, TOLD US THAT HIS MINISTRY HAS VIRTUALLY NO INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT SITUATION OF IRANIAN JEWS. BOTH RAFAEL KOTLOWITZ, HEAD OF THE IMMIGRATION AND ABSORPTION DEPARTMENT OF THE JEWISH AGENCY, AND YORAN SHANI, OF THE MFA'S MIDDLE EAST DIVISION, SAID THEY WERE VERY WORRIED, AS WAS THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN IRAN ITSELF. KOTLOWITZ SAID THAT HE WAS AFRAID THAT THE ELGHAMIAN EXECUTION WAS NOT AN INDIVIDUAL CASE AND THAT OTHER JEWS ARE BEING HELD AS HOSTAGES. SHANI, WHO SPENT TWO YEARS AT THE ISRAELI CONSULATE IN TEHRAN AND RETURNED HERE ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO, SAID THAT HE FEARED NOT SO MUCH FURTHER EXECUTIONS AS A GENERAL DETERIORATION OF THE POSITION OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. SHANI SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH THE SITUATION OF THE JEWS IN IRAN WAS OUTWARDLY COMFORTABLE UNDER THE SHAH, THERE WAS AN UNDERLYING RESENTMENT, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE POOR AND RURAL AREAS, WHICH UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES COULD EASILY BE TURNED INTO OVERT ACTS AGAINST JEWS.

4. BOTH AGREED THAT JEWS NOT ON THE BLACK LIST (WHICH THEY HEARD HAS AS MANY AS 8,000 NAMES, JEWS AND NON-JEWS) ARE ABLE TO LEAVE IRAN, BUT KOTLOWITZ NOTED THAT ONLY ABOUT AN AVERAGE OF 25 A DAY ARE ARRIVING IN ISRAEL ON TEMPORARY-RESIDENT OR TOURIST VISES. SOME JEWS HAD EVEN RETURNED TO IRAN FROM ISRAEL TO LOOK AFTER THEIR PERSONAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS. SHANI ESTIMATED THE NUMBER OF JEWISH PRISONERS IN IRAN AT NO MORE THAN TEN, BUT RUMORS PUT THE NUMBER AT ANYWHERE BETWEEN FOUR AND TWO HUNDRED.

5. ~~KOTLOWITZ SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH ONE VERY IMPORTANT~~
IRANIAN JEWISH LEADER (UNNAMED) FAVORS PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF INDIGNATION FROM OUTSIDE AGAINST IRANIAN TREATMENT OF JEWS AND OTHER MINORITIES, SEVERAL OTHERS HAVE URGED RESERVE FOR THE TIME BEING. KOTLOWITZ HIMSELF FAVORED PROTESTS AGAINST THE GENERAL CONDUCT OF THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT, I.E., SUMMARY TRIALS AND EXECUTIONS, WITHOUT CITING INDIVIDUAL CASES. SHANI THOUGHT THAT CRITICISM BY WESTERNERS WHO WERE NOT FORMERLY SUPPORTERS OF THE SHAN, AS WELL AS PRESS CRITICISM, HAS A FAVORABLE CUMULATIVE IMPACT ON THE IRANIAN REGIME. CRITICISM SHOULD BE BASED ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS AND THE SITUATION SHOULD BE REVIEWED PERIODICALLY.

6. EACH OF OUR INTERLOCUTORS EMPHASIZED GOI'S LACK OF INFORMATION AND EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO CONTINUE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN THE FUTURE. LEWIS

BT

#11-1

\$ Poc 13-3

FROM: LEGAL SECRETARY
TO: SECRETARY VARGO
SUBJECT: MAY 27
RE: THE WAY TO ZEP-6
FEDERAL SECRETARY IN CAIRO
MINISTRE/SECRETARY VARGO IMMEDIATE 4000
BUREAU/EMBASSY ISRAEL
SECRETARY VARGO

TO: ADD-1 (SECRETARY, S.J.) OR -
SUBJECT: THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN IRAN

(S - ENTIRE TEXT) DURING HIS MEETING WITH LORD CORRISS
AND SENIOR FOR ADVISORS ON MAY 21, SECRETARY VARGO
ADVISED THAT HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY TEMER BARSONG FOR HIS
ADVICE ON HOW TO ASSIST THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN IRAN.

BARSONG RESPONDED THAT IN HIS VIEW, THE JEWS AND
ARABS ARE AUTOMATICALLY SUSPECTED OF BEING AGENTS OF
WESTERN IMPERIALISM. HIS ADVICE TO THEM IS TO SEEK HELP
FROM RELIGIOUS FIGURES, WHO COULD COMMUNICATE WITH SENIOR
ARABIC (SHARIAT-MADARI), FOR EXAMPLE, MOI PROSEMI.
INTERVENTION BY CONGRESSMEN WILL MAKE MATTERS WORSE. THE
SECRETARY THANKED BARSONG FOR THIS OBSERVATION AND NOTED
THAT HE WILL BE BRINGING THE POINT OF HIS VIEW TO THE DEPT.

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TEHRAN 5641/1

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IDENTIFICATION SECTION 21 OF TEHRAN 35681

15 IS

1. INFO: CDS 8/1/90 (TOMSETH, V.L.) CR-F
2. TO: OVIS, SRUM, IR
3. FROM: IRANIAN JEWS

4. INFO: STATE 126657

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT REPORTING MESSAGE)

2. SUMMARY: POL COUNS MET WITH HAEI SHOOFAT AND SON
ON JUNE 1 AND RAISED WITH HIM QUESTIONS IN REFTEL.
3. SUMMARY.

4. HAEI SHOOFAT SAID THAT HE BELIEVES THAT ONLY
IRANIAN'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS REMAIN IN IRAN.
5. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE BELIEVES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE
TO GET EXIT VISAS ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT CONFIRM THAT
HE HAD EVEN TRIED SINCE HE HAS NOT HAD DIRECT CON-
TACT WITH THEM. DAVID SHOOFAT SAID THAT HE IS SURE THAT
THEY WERE UNDER CLOSEST SURVEILLANCE SINCE HE HAD RUN
THEM PAST IDOL ELGHANIAN ON THE STREET A FEW DAYS EARLIER
AND THAT ELGHANIAN HAD PASSED HIM BY WITHOUT EVEN
SAYING DESPITE KNOWING HIM VERY WELL. UNDER THE CIRCUM-
STANCES, HE ADDED, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT CONTACTING HIM
EXACTLY TO DETERMINE HIS AND WIFE'S PRECISE SITUATION.
6. HE SAID THAT HE AND HIS FATHERS WOULD TRY TO ESTABLISH
SOME KIND OF INDIRECT CONTACT. THE ELGHANIAN'S APPARENTLY
WANTED TO MOVE AROUND, AND BOTH SHOOFATS OPINED THAT
THEY WERE PROBABLY IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER.

7. WHEN ASKED WHAT HELP THE USG OR PRIVATE AMERICAN
CITIZENS MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE, HAEI SHOOFAT PRO-
DUCED A CLIPPING OF A STORY BY BOYLE MCMAHON ON THE
SITUATION OF IRANIAN JEWS (THE CLIPPING WAS UNDATED
BUT POL COUNS BELIEVES IT WAS ABOUT TWO WEEKS OLD).
8. THE STORY, HE SAID WITH CONSIDERABLE EMOTION, WAS THE
WORST SORT OF THING THAT WELL-INTENTIONED OUTSIDERS
MIGHT DO FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. IT CITED HAEI SHOOFAT
BY NAME AND MENTIONED SEVERAL OTHER IRANIAN JEWS AS
WELL. BOTH SHOOFATS WERE EMPHATIC THAT ANYTHING THAT
DRAWS ATTENTION TO JEWS, EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLEC-
TIVELY, HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR JUST MAKING THEIR SITUA-
TION WORSE. THE ASSISTANCE IRANIAN JEWS WOULD DOES NOT
LIE IN PUBLICITY. POL COUNS ASKED SHOOFATS FOR THEIR
VIEWS ON THE VALUE OF A QUIET APPROACH TO THE PROI ON
THE ELGHANIAN'S BEHALF FOR EXIT VISAS. THEY THOUGHT IT
MIGHT BE USEFUL, SINCE SEVERAL MEMBERS, INCLUDING PM
ELGHAN, SEEM TO BE GOING IN THEIR DISTINCTION BETWEEN

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UNLAWFUL AND ZIONISM ON THE ONE HAND AND ALIENAGE TO JUDAISM ON THE OTHER, BUT THEY ASKED FOR TIME TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES BEFORE GIVING A DEFINITE REPLY.

6. RABBI SHOOFAT SAID THAT THE BEST HELP THE U.S. COULD GIVE IRANIAN JEWS WOULD BE VISAS IN CASES WHERE THOSE DESIRING LEAVE WANT TO GO TO THE U.S. IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID, THAT A PROBLEM APPEARS TO HAVE DEVELOPED IN ROME WHERE MANY IRANIAN JEWS HAVE BEEN GOING TO APPLY. AT FIRST, JEWS ENCOUNTERED LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING A SYMPATHETIC HEARING, BUT DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS A NUMBER OF APPLICANTS HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN FOR REASONS THAT WERE NOT CLEAR TO HIM. SOME OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN STRANDED IN ROME FOR NEARLY A MONTH. POL COUNS EXPLAINED THE U.S. POLICY OF GIVING A SYMPATHETIC HEARING TO MINORITY GROUP APPLICANTS, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE CONSULAN OFFICERS MUST WORK WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE LAW. NONETHELESS, HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER WITH A VIEW TO BREAKING THE LOGJAM IN ROME. (COMMENT: POL COUNS HAS HEARD THE SAME STORY FROM SEVERAL SOURCES OVER THE PAST TWO DAYS.)

7. RABBI SHOOFAT ASKED IF IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PUT OUT SOME KIND OF NOTIFICATION TO THE EUROPEAN POSTS WHERE MOST IRANIAN JEWS ARE GOING TO APPLY FOR VISAS REGARDING THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES JEWS FACE IN IRAN. POLCOUNS SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SUCH A NOTICE HAD IN FACT BEEN CIRCULATED ALREADY, BUT PROMISED TO SEE IF IT MIGHT BE RE-ISSUED. RABBI SHOOFAT SAID THAT MENTION IN SUCH A NOTICE MIGHT BE MADE OF THE LETTERS HE HAS BEEN PROVIDING IRANIAN JEWS. THESE LETTERS ARE PRIMARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF IDENTIFICATION. WRITTEN IN HEBREW, THEY GIVE THE INDIVIDUALS' NAMES, STATE THAT THEY ARE JEWISH, AND REQUEST ASSISTANCE IN SEEING THAT THEY REACH THEIR FINAL DESTINATIONS.

8. RABBI SHOOFAT COULD OFFER LITTLE HELP IN IDENTIFYING JEWS WHO ARE CURRENTLY UNDER ARREST OTHER THAN PARVIZ (AKA AZIZ) HAI AND ALBERT DANIELZOUR. HE MENTIONED MOHAMMAD BAKHSHIAN, SHAMSAN AND PAROUSHI AS PEOPLE WHO

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MIGHT BE BEING DETAINED BUT COULD NOT CONFIRM IT. A NUMBER OF OTHERS INCLUDING A MR. MALAMET WERE WANTED, BUT APPARENTLY HAD ELUDED ARREST SO FAR. THEY MAY HAVE EVEN GOTTEN OUT OF IRAN. HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO RECENT ARRESTS THAT HE WAS AWARE OF. DAVID SHOOFAT SAID THAT PARVIZ HAI IS YOUNG (ABOUT 25) AND TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE THE ONLY MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY STILL IN IRAN. HE SAID THAT YOUNG HAI IS SLIGHTLY RETARDED AND PROBABLY HAS LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HE IS CHARGED WITH. ASIDE FROM HE AND DANIELFOUR, THE OTHER JEWS EITHER UNDER ARREST OR BEING SOUGHT ARE CHARGED WITH ECONOMIC CRIMES RATHER THAN BEING ISRAELI AGENTS, AS IN THE CASE OF THE FORMER TWO MEN. BOTH SHOOFATS SAID THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW THE SITUATION OUTSIDE THERAN.

8. RABBI SHOOFAT'S ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF JEWS WHO HAVE DEPARTED IRAN IS CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN OUR ESTIMATE OF 20,000 TO 25,000. HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NO HIGHER THAN 10,000, ALTHOUGH AGAIN, HE SAID, IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW HOW MANY MIGHT HAVE LEFT FROM JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN PROVINCIAL CITIES.

9. IN SUM, THE SHOOFATS' PRIMARY MESSAGE WAS THAT THERE ARE SOME WAYS THE U.S. CAN HELP IRANIAN JEWS BUT THAT A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, WHETHER IN THE PRESS OR IN THE U.S. CONGRESS, WAS NOT THE WAY TO DO IT. NAAS

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CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON IRANIAN JEWS

STATE 156044
- ENTIRE TEXT).

OFFS MET AS SCHEDULED ON JUNE 12 WITH CONGRESSMAN
AND HIS GROUP AND ON JUNE 19 WITH CONGRESSMEN
AND GILMAN. IN BOTH MEETINGS WE PRESENTED
WRITING ON STATUS OF JEWS IN IRAN, DRAWING ON
REPORTING. IT WAS AGREED BOTH MEETINGS WOULD BE
HELD PRIVATE AND OFF-THE-RECORD. ALTHOUGH THE POSSI-
BILITY OF A HOUSE RESOLUTION ON THE CONDITION OF IRANIAN
JEWS WAS DISCUSSED, IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS
NO MOMENT AT THIS TIME TO PUSH FORWARD SUCH A RESOLU-
TION. CONGRESSMEN UNDERSTOOD THE NEGATIVE EFFECT SUCH
A RESOLUTION COULD HAVE ON THE CONDITION OF IRANIAN JEWS.

THERE WAS MUCH DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS RELATING TO
IRANIAN JEWS AND OTHER MINORITIES. WE INFORMED CON-
GRESSMEN OF EMBASSY'S PLAN TO RESUME CIV OPERATIONS LATER
THIS YEAR AND THEY APPEARED INTERESTED THAT WE PUSH
TO THE EXTENT PRACTICAL IN OUR VISA PROGRAM. THERE
WAS ALSO CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF ISSUANCE OF VISAS FOR
IRANIS IN HOME AND WE EXPLAINED THAT WE WERE ATTEMPTING
TO IDENTIFY A TOY VISA OFFICER FOR THAT EMBASSY.

EMBASSY REPORTING ON CONDITION OF JEWS HAS BEEN
VERY USEFUL IN ENABLING US TO KEEP MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
INFORMED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUING TO
KEEP US ADVISED BY STATUS REPORTS PROVIDING ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL LEVEL INDICATORS, ANY IMPRESSIONS YOU MAY
HAVE, AND SUCH DATA AS IS AVAILABLE ON DEPARTURES OF
IRANIS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT RATE OF DEPARTURES IS
STILL REDUCED AND THAT IN FACT, SOME JEWS WHO LEFT
IRAN MAY HAVE BEEN TO RETURN. THANKS

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CLEAR: FCON/RBASH
DISTR: POL-3 CHG EC
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E.O. 12065: GDS 7/6/85 (TOMSETH, V.L.) OR-P
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SOCI, IR, EFIN
SUBJECT: IRANIAN JEWS AND ECONOMIC MATTERS

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY: THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS DERIVED FROM CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN EMBOFFS SKUD AND RICHARDSON AND A NUMBER OF JEWISH (AND IN ONE INSTANCE AN ARMENIAN) BUSINESSMEN. THESE CONVERSATIONS REFLECT THE CONTINUING CONCERN OF IRANIAN JEWS AND ALSO PROVIDE INSIGHTS TO CERTAIN ECONOMIC PHENOMENA IN TODAY'S IRAN. END SUMMARY.

3. ONE JEWISH CARPET MERCHANT SKUD TALKED TO JUNE 29 COMPLAINED ABOUT THE SITUATION AS IT AFFECTS HIS COMMUNITY AND MADE A FEW RUDE REMARKS ABOUT KHOMEINI. HE WANTED TO KNOW WHEN THE EMBASSY'S VISA SECTION WOULD REOPEN. WHEN HE WAS TOLD THAT IT WOULD BE AWHILE YET, HE ASKED IF HE COULD APPLY FOR A VISA IN EUROPE AND WHAT HIS CHANCES WOULD BE OF GETTING ONE IF HE DID.

4. ANOTHER JEWISH CARPET MERCHANT TOLD SKUD TO HURRY BACK NEXT WEEK IF HE WAS SERIOUS ABOUT BUYING SOMETHING BECAUSE HE WOULD BE LEAVING FOR CALIFORNIA WITHIN TWO WEEKS. HE ALSO SAID THAT, WHILE PRICES FOR TRIBAL CARPETS WERE DECLINING, THE PRICES FOR THE FINER SILK CARPETS HAD INCREASED SHARPLY. THE APPARENT REASON FOR THIS WAS THAT THE CARPETS COULD BE USED AS A MEANS OF EXPATRIATING CAPITAL IN CONTRAVENTION OF RESTRICTIVE FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS.

5. SKUD ALSO TALKED TO A JEWISH MONEY CHANGER. THE BUYING RATE FOR DOLLARS THAT DAY HAD REACHED A NEW HIGH OF 120 RIALS. THE MONEY CHANGER SAID THAT HE HAD A DAUGHTER IN ISRAEL AND TWO SCHOOL-AGED SONS IN ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA. HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM AN EARLY MORNING VISIT TO THE TELEPHONE OFFICE TO CALL HIS DAUGHTER. HE SAID IT WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO CALL ISRAEL FROM PRIVATE PHONES. HE HAD ENCOUNTERED NO DIFFICULTIES AT THE TELEPHONE OFFICE, BUT HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO SPEAK IN PERSI--NOT ENGLISH OR HEBREW (PRESUMABLY TO MAKE THE WORK OF ISLAMIC EAVES-DROPPERS EASIER).

6. THE MONEY CHANGER PROUDLY DISPLAYED A COPY OF AN ALAMEDA PAPER FEATURING A FRONT PAGE STORY ABOUT HIS TWO SONS, AGES 13 AND 17 WHO WERE "SEEKING REFUGE FROM A TROUBLED IRAN." AS SOON AS HE CAN SETTLE HIS AFFAIRS IN IRAN, HE TOLD SKUD, HE, HIS WIFE AND REMAINING DAUGHTER PLAN TO VISIT ISRAEL AND THEN MOVE ON TO THE U.S. TO

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SETTLE.

7. DURING THE COURSE OF SKUD'S CONVERSATION WITH THE MONEY CHANGER, AN ARMENIAN ACQUAINTANCE CONNECTED WITH THE BANK OF IRAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST DROPPED IN TO SAY HELLO. DISCUSSION TURNED TO THE SKYROCKETING VALUE OF THE DOLLAR. THE ARMENIAN'S WIFE (RESIDENT IN THE U.S.) HAD ASKED HIM TO WITHDRAW HER RIAL DEPOSITS, BUT EXCHANGE RESTRICTIONS AND THE HIGH FREE MARKET RATE HAD SO FAR PREVENTED HIM FROM CONVERTING HER RIALS TO DOLLARS.

8. HE SAID THE BANKS HAD BEEN DELUGED BY PEOPLE SEEKING TO BUY FOREIGN CURRENCY. REGULATIONS LIMITED SALES FOR NON-COMMERCIAL PURPOSES TO \$3,000.00, AND ONLY PERSONS HOLDING VALID PASSPORTS, EXIT STAMPS AND AIRLINE TICKETS WERE ELIGIBLE TO BUY. NOT ALL PURCHASERS WERE BONA FIDE TRAVELERS, HOWEVER. THE DIFFERENCE IN THE OFFICIAL SELLING RATE (70.60 RIALS) AND THE FREE MARKET BUYING RATE (120 RIALS) ENCOURAGED BRIBES TO BANK EMPLOYEES TO NEGLECT TO STAMP PASSPORTS OF EXCHANGE PURCHASERS, THUS ENABLING THEM TO WORK THE SCAM AGAIN. THE BANK OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSING THE FREE MARKET DOWN HAD BEEN DISCUSSED (RUMORS TO THIS EFFECT SUBSEQUENTLY DROVE THE PRICE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE ON THE FREE MARKET DOWN SOMEWHAT), BUT ADDED THAT NO ACTION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN. THE MONEY CHANGER OPINED THAT THE PGOI WAS ALLOWING THE RACKET TO GO ON TO KEEP PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS.

9. THE BANK OFFICIAL BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE RECENT BANK NATIONALIZATION. HE SAID THERE SHOULD NO LONGER BE ANY REAL COMPETITION AND THE ATTITUDE TOWARD CUSTOMERS WOULD CONSEQUENTLY CHANGE. IN THE PAST, HE SAID, BANK EMPLOYEES HAD BEEN POLITE TO THE PUBLIC AND THE BANKS OFFERED COMPETITIVE TERMS TO ATTRACT BUSINESS. HE DID NOT EXPECT THIS TO CONTINUE TO BE THE CASE.

10. A JEWISH ACQUAINTANCE OF RICHARDSON'S, A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE CARPET EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION (PROTECT), RECENTLY TOLD HIM THAT MEMBERSHIP CURRENTLY CONSISTED OF FIVE JEWS, ONE ARMENIAN AND 19 MUSLIMS. THESE PEOPLE HAD BEEN ELECTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP AT THE LAST

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GENERAL ELECTION (WHICH IS HELD ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS). NOT LONG AGO, HOWEVER, A PETITION WAS SUBMITTED TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMPLAINING THAT WHEREAS ONE JEW IS SUFFICIENT FOR PARLIAMENT, THERE ARE FIVE ON THE EXPORTERS BOARD. AS A RESULT, NEW ELECTIONS ARE TO BE CALLED, AND RICHARDSON'S CONTACT EXPECTS JEWISH REPRESENTATION TO FALL TO A SINGLE MEMBER. LAINGEN

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 RUEKJVC/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 2773
 RUEKJVC/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 7797
 RUEKJVC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3753
 RUEKJVC/AMEMBASSY PARIS 4300
 RUEKJVC/AMEMBASSY OSLO 4710
 RUEKJVC/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 1222
 RUEKJVC/AMEMBASSY BERN 1222
 RUEKJVC/AMEMBASSY BONN 12249

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TO RUEKJVC/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 6705
 INFO RUEKJVC/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 1076
 RUEKJVC/AMEMBASSY REIKJAVIK 2143
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 RUEKJVC/AMEMBASSY BONN 12249

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. FOREIGN OFFICE NORDIC AFFAIRS OFFICER VON STAKEBERG
 REQUESTS SOME DETAILS ON SCHMIDT'S JULY 12 VISIT TO OSLO
 WHICH SUPPLEMENT OSLO'S REPORT (REFTEL).
3. EVALBARD, NORDLI SAID THE SITUATION IN THE NORTH
 WAS STILL CRITICAL, CAUSING THE NORWEGIANS SOME CONCERN.
 NORDLI PROMISED SCHMIDT THAT NORWAY WILL DEFEND ITS
 SOVEREIGNTY, PERHAPS EVEN MORE STRONGLY THAN IN THE PAST.
4. MIDDLE EAST. STAKEBERG'S BRIEFING FOLLOWED LINES
 OF REFTEL IN GENERAL. ACCORDING TO STAKEBERG
 SCHMIDT REPORTED THAT KNEISLY AND BRANDT HAD ASKED
 AMERAT'S HELP FOR THE JEWS IN IRAN. SCHMIDT INDICATED
 THAT AMERAT HAD APPARENTLY AGREED TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO
 HELP.
5. OIL. STAKEBERG SAID THAT SCHMIDT EXPRESSED HIS
 DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE HIGH PRICE OF NORWEGIAN OIL.
 NORDLI NOTED THAT IT WAS A MATTER CONCERNING PRIVATE
 CORPORATIONS AND THE FREE MARKET. HE ADDED, HOWEVER,
 THAT HE WOULD SEE WHAT HE COULD DO TO MODERATE THE OIL
 PRICE. NORDLI EXPECTED TO SEE NORWEGIAN OIL PRODUCTION
 RISE FROM .9 MILLION BARRELS/DAY TO 1.2 MILLION BARRELS/
 DAY IN THE 1990'S. STAKEBERG

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RF
CHRN

E.O. 12065: GDS, 9/10/79 (CLEMENT, CARL)

TAGS:

SUBJECT: NIV APPLICATIONS IN "POST-CRISIS" IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 9503, STATE 35557

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S CANDID VIEWS ON SITUATION IN IRAN. DEPARTMENT CANNOT AGREE, HOWEVER, WITH EMBASSY SUGGESTION THAT POLICY ENUNCIATED IN STATE 35557 BE RESCINDED IMMEDIATELY. THAT POLICY WAS CAREFULLY FORMULATED AND BASED ON PRECEDENTS SET BY POLICIES APPLIED IN REGARD TO APPLICANTS FROM OTHER TROUBLED AREAS, SUCH AS LEBANON. AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, THE POLICY HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND REAFFIRMED SEVERAL TIMES. WE PLAN TO REVIEW THE POLICY AGAIN IN OCTOBER AND WILL TAKE EMBASSY'S VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT.

3. IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND THAT THE UNDERLYING BASIS FOR THE POLICY HAS RELEVANCE NOT ONLY TO BONA FIDES OF VISA APPLICANTS, BUT ALSO TO THE STATUS OF IRANIANS ALREADY IN THE UNITED STATES. AT THE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST, CURRENT INS INSTRUCTIONS CALL FOR BLANKET EXTENSIONS OF IRANIAN STAYS IN THE U.S. UNTIL JUNE 1, 1980. THE NEXT POLICY REVIEW WILL CONSIDER WHAT PARALLEL ADJUSTMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN STATE AND INS POLICIES. IN THE CASE OF MINORITY GROUP MEMBERS, THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION IS THAT A DEFINITIVE TRACK RECORD CONCERNING THEIR TREATMENT HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED YET.

4. DEPARTMENT REMAINS CONVINCED THAT CONDITIONS IN IRAN ARE OF SUCH A NATURE AS TO JUSTIFY THE CONTINUATION OF THE CURRENT NIV POLICY FOR THE TIME BEING. THIS IS CERTAINLY THE PERCEPTION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE U.S., BASED ON MEDIA REPORTS OF CAPRICIOUS JUSTICE AND SUMMARY EXECUTIONS. WHILE WHAT PASSES FOR PUBLIC ORDER

AND SECURITY AND A SYSTEM OF JUSTICE IN THE IRAN OF TODAY MAY HAVE COME TO SEEM AS NORMAL FROM EMBASSY'S VANTAGE POINT, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE AND THAT CONDITIONS WILL STABILIZE WITH TIME. VANCE
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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6726

INFO RUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 333

RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 706

RUGMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE 152

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MILAN 1393

EO 12065: NA

TAGS: CVIS SREF IR IT

SUBJECT: IRANIAN NIV APPLICATIONS BY MINORITIES

REFS: A. TEHRAN 08861, B. STATE 035357

1. SUMMARY: CONSULAR OFFICER WAS APPROACHED SEP 10 BY REPRESENTATIVE OF JEWISH IRANIAN COMMUNITY IN MILAN WHO ASKED IF SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS REGARDING HANDLING OF IRANIAN NIV APPLICATIONS OF JEWISH AND OTHER MINORITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. ON SEP 10, MANOUTCHEHR KASHANIAN, LEADER OF MILAN'S LARGE IRANIAN JEWISH COLONY, VISITED CONSULATE GENERAL TO INQUIRE IF WE HAD RECEIVED SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPT REGARDING NIV APPLICATIONS FOR IRANIAN MINORITIES, ESPECIALLY FOR STUDENTS. REFERRING TO THE WORSENING POLITICAL SITUATION IN IRAN, KASHANIAN SAID HE HAD JUST SPOKEN TO THE HEAD RABBI IN TEHRAN, YEDIDIA, WHO TOLD HIM THAT IRANIAN MINORITY APPLICANTS SEEKING ENTRANCE TO THE US WOULD BE GIVEN "SPECIAL TREATMENT" UNTIL JUNE 1980, WHEN THEY APPLY AT US EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES FOR VISAS.

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3. KASHANIAN ADDED THAT HE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH VEDIDIA, ON SEP 12, HOW TO PROCESS A LARGE GROUP OF APPROX. 1,000 IRANIANS WHO WILL SOON BE LEAVING THAT COUNTRY TO APPLY TO LONG-TERM STUDIES IN THE US. HE SAID THAT IRANIAN RABBI HAD DECIDED TO SEND HALF OF THE GROUP TO LONDON FOR PROCESSING AND THE OTHER HALF TO ROME SINCE THERE WERE NOT "ADEQUATE FACILITIES IN ITALY TO HANDLE THE WHOLE GROUP".

4. CONSULATE HAS TURNED DOWN A NUMBER OF IRANIAN STUDY APPLICANTS UNDER SECTION 214 (B) OF THE ACT IN RECENT DAYS. WHILE MANY OF THE REFUSED APPLICANTS HAD PROPER DOCUMENTATION FOR ADMITTANCE TO US SCHOOLS, AND ADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO COVER COSTS OF STUDIES, THEY CLEARLY HAD NO INTENTION OF RETURNING TO IRAN UNTIL CONDITIONS STABILIZED IN THAT COUNTRY.

M-4-F-316

5. ACTION REQUESTED: CONSULATE NEEDS DEPT'S GUIDANCE IMMEDIATELY ON HOW TO RESPOND TO KASHANIAN'S INQUIRY ABOUT SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS ON IRANIAN MINORITIES WHO APPLY AT THIS POST FOR STUDENT OR TOURIST VISAS TO THE US AND WHO ARE NOT ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR INTENTION TO RETURN TO IRAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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R.C. 12085: GIS 1/10/85 (SIMPPEL, JOHN D.) CR-P
TAGS: PINT, IR
SUBJECT: STATUS OF MINORITY GROUPS

REF: TEHRAN 379

1. FIGURES ON IRANIAN ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITY RANGE FROM
LAST YEAR'S CENSUS TOTAL OF 21,000 TO RECENT ESTIMATE OF
PRESENT HEAD OF TEHRAN'S ZOROASTRIAN TEMPLE OF 32,000 TO
35,000. PROBLEM OF EXACT COUNT IS COMPLICATED BOTH BY
SELF-INTEREST IN ZOROASTRIAN ESTIMATES AND FACT THAT NUMBER
OF "CLOSELY" ZOROASTRIANS WOULD NEVER REGISTER THAT WAY WITH
CENSUS BUREAU. LARGEST COMMUNITIES ARE IN TEHRAN, YAHD,
AND KIRMAN, WITH SMALLER GROUPS (200-300) IN OTHER MAJOR
CITIES SUCH AS SHIRAZ, ISFAHAN, AND ELSEWHERE.

2. SEVERAL ZOROASTRIAN CONTACTS, INCLUDING TEMPLE HEAD,
SAY THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO PHYSICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST
ZOROASTRIANS, THOUGH SEVERAL ZOROASTRIANS HAVE BEEN DIS-
MISSED FROM GOVERNMENT POSSES IN PAST SIX MONTHS. THUS
COMMUNITY IS SOMEWHAT NERVOUS, BUT LESS SO THAN OTHERS.

3. GENERAL ESTIMATES FROM SEVERAL CHRISTIAN SOURCES PLACE
CHRISTIANS AT OFFICIAL TOTAL OF 222,000. THIS INCLUDES
ARMENIANS, ASSYRIANS, AND RESIDUAL NUMBER OF CATHOLICS AND
PROTESTANTS, INCLUDING EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY. TO BEST OF
OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE HAVE BEEN NO RPT NO INCIDENTS DIRECTED
AT ANY OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES, THOUGH THERE HAVE
BEEN SOME INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS AND NERVOUSNESS HAS BEEN
HIGH AMONG THE ASSYRIANS ON OCCASION.

4. RECENT CALMING BLAMMERS (ANNOUNCEMENTS) BY ISLAMIC
CLERGY LEADERS ORGANIZATION (CLO) AS WELL AS STATEMENTS
BY INDIVIDUAL MULLANS AND AYATOLLANS HAVE REDUCED GENERAL
TENSINESS SOMEWHAT. CROWD BEHAVIOR IN WAKE OF SAH'S
DEPARTURE JAN 16 WILL OFFER NEXT MAJOR TEST OF IRANIAN
TOLERANCE. SULLIVAN

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TEHRAN 5867

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CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
CEREG: STATE
APPRV: CH: CWNAAS
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CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: CONS CHG POL
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12005: OPS 5/1/75 (RICHARDSON, C.W.) OR-C
: SHUM, CIVIS, ID
: VISAS AND IRANIAN MINORITIFS

A. TEHRAN 5844, B. TEHRAN 1241, C. STATE 35557

(C - ENTIRE TEXT; ACTION REQUESTED)

AS REPORTED IN RPTTEL B (PART THREE) TEHRAN HAS LONG
BEEN CONSCIOUS OF THE SITUATION OF MINORITIES IN IRAN
AND THIS AWARENESS HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN OUR NIV ISSU-
ES; ON SOME DAYS OVER HALF OF THOSE RECEIVING VISAS
WERE MINORITY MEMBERS. WE CONTINUE TO GIVE SPECIAL CON-
SIDERATION TO MINORITY APPLICANTS DURING THE CURRENT
PERIOD OF RELATIVE NIV INACTIVITY, BUT IT IS NECESSARILY
LIMITED SCOPE.

THE POST FULLY INTENDS TO PURSUE THIS POLICY WITH
REGARD TO MINORITY APPLICANTS AFTER RESUMING FULL NIV
ISSUATIONS IN JULY. HOWEVER, IT CANNOT APPEAR THAT THE
POLICY IS FAVORING MINORITY OVER OTHER APPLICANTS WITH-
OUT RISKING A NEGATIVE PUBLIC REACTION. IN THE CONTEXT
OF THE LARGE BACKED-UP DEMAND FOR VISAS WITHIN ALL ELE-
MENTS OF IRANIAN SOCIETY, A POPULAR PERCEPTION OF FAVORED
TREATMENT OF ONE SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION COULD OPERATE
TO THAT GROUP'S SERIOUS DETRIMENT.

RPTTEL C PROVIDED USEFUL GUIDANCE IN DEALING WITH
IRANIAN VISA APPLICANTS. THE EMB SUGGESTS THAT THE DEPT
GIVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE FIELD WITH ADDITIONAL
EMPHASIS ON EMPHASIZING THE TREATMENT TO BE ACCORDED
TO ALL APPLICANTS FROM MINORITY IRANIAN. IF THIS WERE
FEASIBLE TO THE DEPT, THE POST WOULD THEN APPROACH
MINORITY COMMUNITIES' LEADERS AND ASSURE THEM THAT
IRANIAN CITIZENS WILL RECEIVE THE SAME CONSIDERATION
WHETHER APPLYING OUTSIDE OF IRAN AS THEY DO IN TEHRAN. SUCH
ASSURANCE MIGHT OVERCOME THE RELUCTANCE, SHARED AMONG
IRANIAN, TO GO ABROAD TO SEEK A VISA FOR THE U.S.

THE EMB FACES A TREMENDOUS TASK IN COPING WITH THE
ACCUMULATED NIV DEMAND, OF WHICH THAT OF MINORITY PEOPLES
IS ONLY A PORTION, ALTHOUGH AN IMPORTANT PORTION, NUMERI-
CALLY AND POLITICALLY. THE ONLY APPARENT IMMEDIATE
ACTION FOR THOSE WHO ANXIOUS TO WAIT THEIR TURN IN
THE U.S. IS TO GO ELSEWHERE TO APPLY FOR VISAS FOR THE
U.S. STATES. NAA

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