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374

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ACTION EUR-01

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	AID-00	ARA-01	CEA-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00
	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EAP-01	EB-01	EXIM-01	E-00	FRB-01	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-09	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-01
	PM-00	PRS-01	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	SA-01	SNIS-00	NISC-01
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-09	G-00	/038W		

-----FE2F47 081753Z /49

O 081745Z NOV 95
 FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5776
 INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
 GCC COLLECTIVE
 AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
 IRAN COLLECTIVE
 AMEMBASSY MADRID
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO
 AMEMBASSY ROME
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
 AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 015260

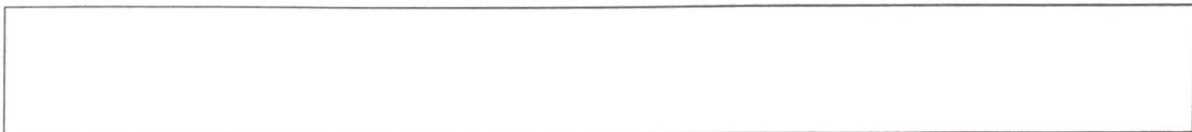
E.O. 12958: DECL: 1.6X5
 TAGS: PREL EFIN EPET IR UK
 SUBJECT: UK: RESPONSE TO TARNOFF LETTER ON IRAN
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REF. (A) LONDON 14717 (B) STATE 253870

1. CLASSIFIED BY: MICHAEL J. HABIB, MINISTER-COUNSELOR
 FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS. REASON: 1.5(B) AND (D).



B1

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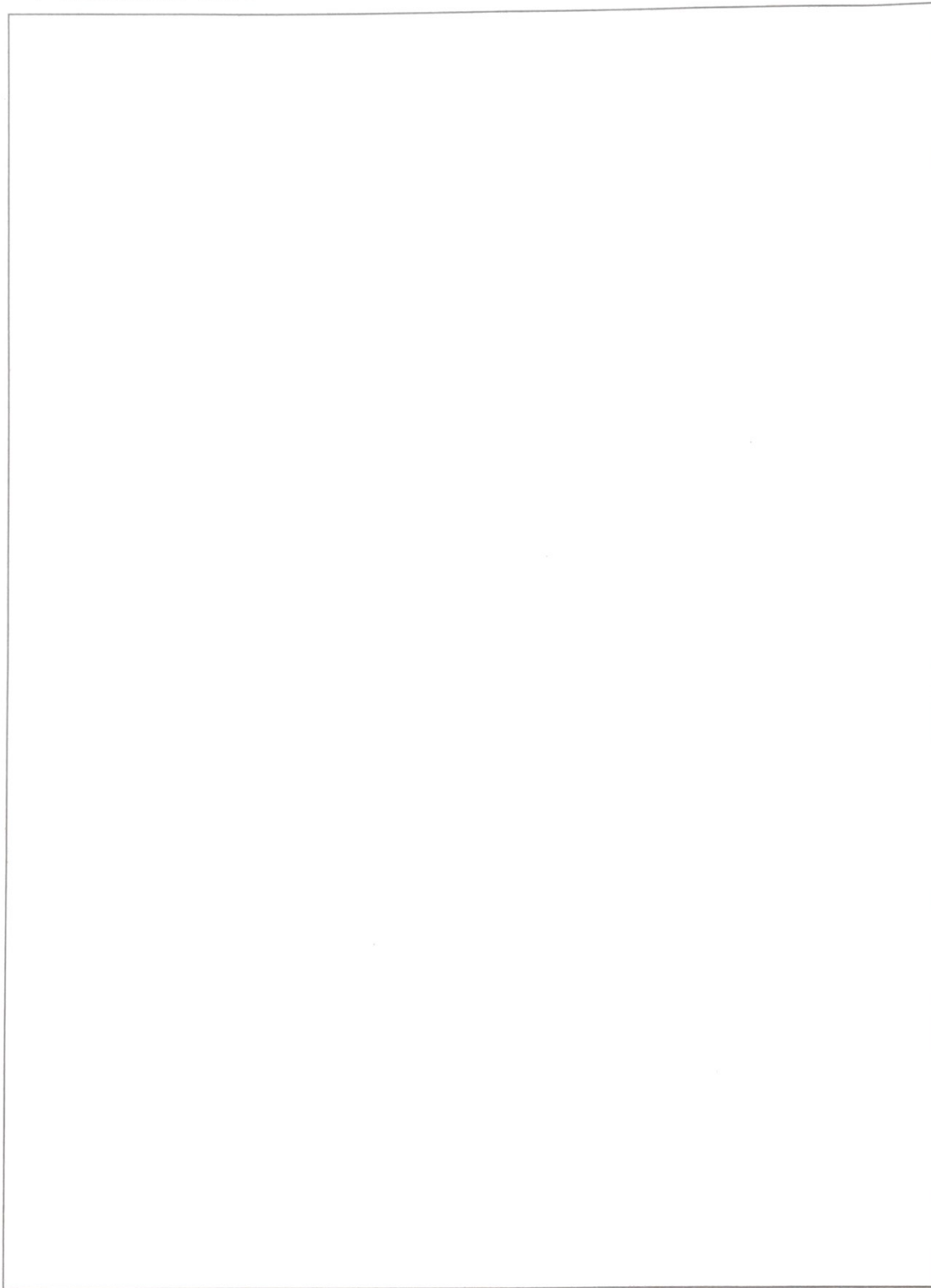
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BEGIN TEXT

7 NOVEMBER 1995

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B1

3. (U) FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF BBC WORLD SERVICE
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PHONE IN PROGRAM WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY MALCOLM RIFKIND
ATTACHED TO THE LETTER FROM MR. HANLEY.

BEGIN TEXT OF TRANSCRIPT

MR. MASOUT (LONDON, ENGLAND): IN THE LIGHT OF THE FACT
THAT SIX YEARS HAS PASSED SINCE THE REGIME IN IRAN
IMPOSED A FATWA ON MR. RUSHDIE, A BRITISH CITIZEN THERE
DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE BEEN ANY RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE
AND THE FACT OF ITS ILLEGALITY. YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS
STRESSED ON SOME OCCASIONS THAT YOUR POLICY TOWARDS THE
IRANIAN REGIME IS ONE OF CRITICAL DIALOGUE. I WOULD
ARGUE THAT THIS HAS BEEN INEFFECTIVE IN THE SENSE THAT
THEY CONTINUE THEIR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES ALL OVER THE
WORLD AND SEEM TO EXPORT IT.

I WOULD ARGUE THAT WOULD IT NOT BE MORE EFFECTIVE FOR
YOUR GOVERNMENT TO CHOOSE A MORE PURPOSEFUL, FORCEFUL
APPROACH TOWARDS THE IRANIAN REGIME AND MAYBE TAKE AN
APPROACH SIMILAR TO THE U.S. AND ADOPT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS.

FOREIGN SECRETARY: THE POLICY OF CRITICAL DIALOGUE IS
MORE THE POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, OF WHICH WE ARE
PART, RATHER THAN A PURELY BRITISH POLICY. I TEND TO
AGREE WITH YOU THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY

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EAP-01	EB-01	EXIM-01	E-00	FRB-01	H-01	TEDE-00
INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 015260

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SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE AT THE END OF THE DAY, AS LONG AS THE
 IRANIANS REFUSE TO REMOVE THE OBSCURE FATWA AND STILL
 THREATEN TO MURDER A BRITISH CITIZEN, THEN THERE CAN BE
 NO NORMAL RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND BRITAIN HAS BEEN IN
 THE FOREFRONT OF MAKING THAT CLEAR WITHIN THE EUROPEAN
 UNION AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE.

THE UNITED STATES POLICY OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS WE
 UNDERSTAND AND OF COURSE IT IS A POSSIBLE APPROACH.
 SANCTIONS WILL NOT NORMALLY WORK UNLESS THEY ARE
 COMPREHENSIVE, UNLESS THE WORLD AS A WHOLE IS PREPARED
 TO IMPLEMENT THEM. WE HAVE SEEN TOO MANY FAILED
 EXAMPLES OF SANCTIONS NOT OPERATING. OCCASIONALLY, THEY
 CAN BE VERY IMPRESSIVE AS WITH SERBIA AND THAT HAS
 HAPPENED BECAUSE THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THROUGHOUT THE
 WORLD. I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT AT THIS MOMENT IN
 TIME SUCH A CONSENSUS EXISTS WITH REGARD TO IRAN.

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MR. MASOUT: I WOULD ARGUE FOR A MORE FORCEFUL APPROACH TOWARD THE IRANIAN REGIME. EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD. IF YOU LOOK AT THE SITUATION WITHIN THE MIDDLE EAST ITSELF, THE TROUBLE THAT THEY CAUSE THERE AND THE WHOLE OF TERRORISM THAT THEY PORTRAY HAS GONE OVER TO AFRICA NOW AND SOME COUNTRIES LIKE EGYPT, SYRIA SO SURELY IF THE U.S., ENGLAND AND THE WHOLE OF EUROPE CONSIDER YOURSELVES TO BE THE POLICEMEN OF THE WHOLE WORLD THEN THE WAY I SEE IT YOU CAN AS A NATION AND WITH THE HELP OF THE U.S. AND EUROPE BRING POLICY....

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PRESENTER: WHY NOT FOLLOW AMERICA'S LEAD?

MR. MASOUT: BASICALLY YES. BE MORE FORCEFUL. SURELY A COUNTRY LIKE IRAN OR THE REGIME WITHIN CAN'T BE TERRORIZING PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD. THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE GOT SUCH A BAD HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD WITHIN THEIR OWN COUNTRY IS SURELY A PROBLEM IN ITSELF?

FOREIGN SECRETARY: YES. OF COURSE YOU ARE RIGHT AND COUNTRIES LIKE IRAN OR FOR THAT MATTER IRAQ OR LIBYA DO APPEAR TO SPONSOR TERRORISM, APPEAR TO BE ACTING IN A GROSSLY IRRESPONSIBLE WAY AND AS A CONSEQUENCE THEY ARE INTERNATIONAL PARIAS IN MANY RESPECTS AND THAT IS A VERY IMPORTANT POINT.

ON THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER WE HAVE A POLICY IDENTICAL TO THE UNITED STATES, THERE IS ONLY ONE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE AND THAT IS WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF A TRADE EMBARGO, ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. AGAIN, I HAVE TO REPEAT THE POINT THAT THAT IS A POLICY WHICH IN OUR JUDGEMENT SHOULD ONLY BE PURSUED IF IT IS LIKELY TO BE RESPECTED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD BECAUSE IF NOT, THEN IT DOESN'T IMPOSE THE PRESSURE ON THE COUNTRY CONCERNED THAT IT IS DESIGNED TO DO AND IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ARE NOT PREPARED TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN.

PRESENTER: ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT THIS IS AN IDEA THAT HAS BEEN MOOTED BY BRITAIN TRYING TO TAKE A LEAD IN THIS RESPECT AND HAS BEEN REJECTED?

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FOREIGN SECRETARY: IT HAS CERTAINLY BEEN DISCUSSED
WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT
EVEN WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION THERE ARE A SUBSTANTIAL
NUMBER OF COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT BELIEVE THAT A POLICY OF
ECONOMIC SANCTIONS WOULD WORK.
END TEXT OF TRANSCRIPT.
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