

# استاد لادن 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

CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN

Report No. 2 758 0052 77

Continuation Sheet

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Classification/Control Markings

Originator DET 1, USAF, USA, NIA

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22. DETAILS: (C/NOFORN)

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 Abolol Karim AYADI, the personal physician to the Shah of Iran; LTC Ferozpour DJAM (retired), the Iranian Ambassador to Spain; the Shah's son's senior tutor who is a practicing Bahai and a personal friend and associate of LTC AYADI; 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 AYADI 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. Bahaists 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 (NFI) 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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1 SET OF REPORT MAY BE USED UNTIL 1 MAR 77

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Continuation Sheet

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Report No. 150 005 000

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

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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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1 SEPT 62 EDITION MAY BE USED UNTIL 1 MAR 77



# TELEGRAM

1978 NOV 28 PM 1:08

INDICATE  
☐ COLLECT  
☐ CHARGE TO

11650

FROM	AMEMBASSY TEHRAN	CLASSIFICATION	CONFIDENTIAL
ACTION:	SECSTATE WASHDC	IMMEDIATE	
E.O. 11652:			
TAGS:			
SUBJECT:	CONFIDENTIAL TEHRAN	11650	
ACTION:	E.O. 11652: GDS		
TAGS:	PINS, SHUM, IR		
SUBJ:	STATUS OF BAHAIS		
REF:	STATE 296186		
POL: 3			
AMB MIN ECON-2 PM ICA OR SY ADM DAO AFOSI CRU  ISF SHIR TABR	<p>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.</p> <p>2. WE UNDERSTAND BAHAIS ARE LEAVING IRAN, BUT SOME</p>		

DRAFTED BY:	POL: JStempel	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))  
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 Dept. of State

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Classification

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MRN

PROMINENT ONES DO REMAIN. LOWER MIDDLE CLASS BAHAIS  
AND  
TELL US HARASSMENT FROM MOSLEM NEIGHBORS /~~COVER~~ 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

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MRN

OF FRAUD AND ILLEGAL USE OF GOVERNMENT LANDS. ~~AND WHOSE~~  
~~PROSECUTIONS WERE ONLY RECENTLY INITIATED~~ 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.

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Classification

OPTIONAL FORM 152a(H)  
(Formerly FS-413(H)a)  
January 1975  
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*APR 13-68*

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 OFFICE: CHADLER STAIRS  
 NAME: POLICE DEPARTMENT  
 CLERK: POLICE COMMISSION  
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17. WORLDWIDE SYNC (STRONGLY PROTECT) INFORMED UNDOCT  
HE HAD BEEN CALLED BY ONE OF THE NINE "NINE MEN" OF  
THE JEWEL COMMUNITY REGARDING RECENT ACTIONS BY THE NEW  
JEWEL REGIME. THE JEWEL SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE  
JEWEL COMMUNITY FEELS THAT IT IS BEING STRANGLED ADMINISTRATIVELY,  
FINANCIALLY, AND PHYSICALLY, AND IS FACING THE WORSE CRISIS  
IN ITS 125 YEAR HISTORY.

3. RYON SAID THAT HE HAD DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING  
SEVERAL OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN  
AGAINST THE BAKAI COMMUNITY. ON JUNE 8 THE SO-CALLED  
CONFISCATED GOODS COMMITTEE OF THE POOR PEOPLE'S  
ORGANIZATION WAS AUTHORIZED TO CONFISCATE ALL PROPERTY  
OF THE BAKAI NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. A LARGE PLOT OF  
LAND OF ABOUT FOUR MILLION SQUARE METERS CLOSE  
TO HAVARD COLLEGE, OWNED BY THE SHERKAT OGHAN (CONSTRUCTION  
COMPANY), HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMS AS A  
TRAINING FACILITY. THE SHERKAT OGHAN HAS BEEN A MAJOR  
REAL ESTATE COMPANY BUYING PROPERTY ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY.  
ITS OFFICES HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY THE REVOLUTIONARY  
FORCES AND THE MEMBERSHIP LISTS AND FINANCIAL RECORDS  
HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED. THE ASSETS, AMOUNTING TO ABOUT  
100 MILLION RIALS, OF THE MAIN BAKAI COMMUNITY HAVE ALREADY  
BEEN CONFISCATED ON JUNE 12. THIS COMPANY HAS  
1000 SHAREHOLDERS. THE MAIN BAKAI HOSPITAL IS STILL  
OPENING, BUT THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE IS CONTROLLING  
ACCESS TO IT. NINE CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE BEEN DISMISSED.  
SPECIFICALLY ON THE GROUND THAT THEY ARE BAKAIS.  
ACCORDING TO THE BAKAI SPOKESMAN, THIRTY BAKAIS ARE  
IN PRISON. IN 25 VILLAGES, 5,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN  
LEFT HOMELESS AFTER THEIR HOUSES WERE BURNED. IN JAN.,  
A VILLAGE ABOUT FIFTY MILES OUTSIDE OF QOM ON THE NORTH  
SHORE OF THE CASPIAN, FIFTY BAKAIS WERE FORCED TO CONVERT TO ISLAM  
AT GIFT POINT.

3 THE HAJALS SEE THESE ACTIONS AS ONLY THE FIRST STAGES  
OF A CONSCIOUS POLICY AND PROGRAM OF PERSECUTION. THEY  
EXPECT THAT PERSONAL BANK ACCOUNTS OF HAJALS WILL  
BE SEIZED. THEY ALSO ARE EXTREMELY WORRIED THAT  
THERE WILL BE VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST THEM ON JULY 15  
DURING THE FASTING MONTHS OF RAMAZAN, WHICH STARTS  
ON JULY 15 IS THE BIRTHDAY OF THE MISSING IMAM

## SECRET

T. J. A. 5421

S E C R E T

TEHRAN 6421

TWELFTH). THE LEADING AYATOLLAH IN SHIRAZ HAS  
ANNOUNCED THAT HE INTENDS TO CELEBRATE THIS DAY IN THE  
BAHAI BUILDING IN SHIRAZ. THE FEAR IS THAT HE WILL  
DELIVER A FIERCE ANTI-BAHAI SERMON AND WHIP THE  
CROWD INTO AN UNCONTROLLABLE FRENZY WHICH COULD LEAD TO  
A REPRISAL OF THE ANTI-BAHAI EVENTS IN SHIRAZ IN  
MAY, OR SOMETIME SOON.

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

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TEHRAN 6421

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SECSTATE WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE 8375

U S R E A STATE 155773

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NO. 12365 GDS 2/28/95 (.RECHT, HENRY)

OS: PINR, PINS. SHUM, IN

SUBJECT: PERSECUTION OF BAHAI COMMUNITY

REF: TEHRAN 8421

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 YET PLAN TO MAKE REPORT  
AVAILABLE TO EUROPEAN PRESS. HAS THE EMBASSY HAD ANY  
DISCUSSIONS OF CONDITION OF BAHAIS WITH PLOI REPRESENTAT-  
IVES? 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  
DETAINED SINCE DECEMBER). DOES EMBASSY BELIEVE IT  
WOULD BE USEFUL TO ENLIST SUPPORT OF OTHER COUNTRIES  
IN SUPPORT OF BAHAIS?

TEHRAN 4640 AND 4022 DESCRIBE OTHER INCIDENTS  
AFFECTING BAHAIS. ARE THESE COVERED IN PRIOR REPORT? VANCE

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PERSICUTION OF BAHAI COMMUNITY

STATE 158779, (1) TEHRAN 6421

(2) ENTIRE 158779

PHYS NET WITH PRIOR AGAIN 3000 21 ON SUBJECT OF  
SECURITY OF BAHAI COMMUNITY. BECAUSE PRIOR IS HAVING  
THAT MEETINGS WITH BAHAI LEADERS JUNE 21 AND JUNE 22,  
PHYS IS AN INTERIM REPLY TO STATE 158779.

PHYS HAS PROMISED TO HOLD DOCUMENTS IN HIS POSSESSION  
UNTIL AT LEAST UNTIL JUNE 23. HE IS STILL WORKING ON  
REPORT, WHICH IS NOT COMPLETELY FINISHED DUE TO  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE THAT BAHAI LEADERS  
PROMISED HIM.

PHYS IS WORKING ON OBTAINING INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION  
OF THE PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED ACTIONS AND THREATS.  
PHYS SAID THAT ATTACKS ON BAHAI VILLAGES TOOK PLACE BOTH  
BEFORE AND AFTER FEBRUARY REVOLUTION. HIS INFORMATION  
FOR THE JANUARY 1 - MARCH 15 PERIOD. HE WILL BE  
PROVIDED WITH DETAILED SPECIFICS BY BAHAI LEADERS.  
PHYS BELIEVES MOST OF THE ATTACKS TOOK PLACE  
BEFORE THE REVOLUTION.

CONCERNING QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE IS A LEGAL BASIS  
CONFISCATION OF BAHAI PROPERTY AND ASSETS, PRIOR SAID  
HE HAS A COPY OF A DOCUMENT DEALING WITH THE CONFISCATION  
THAT WERE DESCRIBED IN TEHRAN 6421. IT IS A FORM  
WITH THE NAME AND SEAL OF THE "CONFISCATED GOODS  
COMMITTEE OF THE POOR PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION" IN THE UPPER  
LEFT-CORNER, A FILE OR LOCKET NUMBER IN THE UPPER  
RIGHT-CORNER, AND A SEAL STAMP ON THE BOTTOM. THE  
FORM IS SIGNED BY A MASSOUMI (REDACTED), WHOSE TITLE IS  
SUPERVISOR OF THE CONFISCATED GOODS COMMITTEE. THERE  
IS A PLACE ON THE FORM WHERE THE NAME OF THE PERSON  
SIGNED TO 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  
ORDERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COURT YOU ARE AUTHORIZED  
TO CONFISCATE ...". THE DOCUMENT THAT PRIOR HAS HAS THIS  
TEXT SPECIFYING THAT THE THREE ENTITIES, THE BEREAT  
(REAL ESTATE COMPANY), THE NOW NAHALAM COMPANY  
(CLOTHING CO.), AND THE MISACHIE HOSPITAL ARE TO BE  
CONFISCATED. AS MENTIONED, THE HOSPITAL HAS NOT YET BEEN

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ACTUALLY TAKEN OVER.

IT WOULD THEREFORE SEEM THAT, INSO FAR AS ANYTHING IS  
LEGAL IN TODAY'S IRAN, THE CONFISCATION ON THE ORDER OF  
THE REVOLUTIONARY COURT IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE A LEGAL  
BASIS. THE FORM LATTER 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  
FIND OUT FIRST IN EUROPE IN A NEUTRAL COUNTRY AND NOT  
IN THE U.S. SINCE IT WOULD IN THAT CASE AUTOMATICALLY BE  
LABELLED 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 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--  
SPREAD THE NEWS THROUGH NEWSWEEK OR TIME, SO 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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TEHRAN 6506/2

10. ACTION PLAN. OUR INITIAL REACTION IS THAT THERE IS VERY LITTLE THAT THE U.S. CAN DO TO HELP PROTECT THE BAHAIS. THEY ARE 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. THE SHAH ONLY WERE PROTECTED, SOME SAY FAVORED. NOW 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 CLEARLY BE SEIZED UPON AS AN INTERFERENCE 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 OF AFFAIRS HERE, THE EMBASSY HAS NOT SPECIFICALLY RAISED WITH THE PCOI THE BAHAI QUESTION. THE EMBASSY HAS MADE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN IT SPEAKS OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES TO THE PCOI, THE BAHAIS ARE INCLUDED. THE PCOI, OF COURSE, DOES NOT ACCEPT SUCH AN INCLUSION.

11. PRIOR WILL ALSO PURSUE QUESTION OF TRYING TO TURN OFF THE TEHRAN JULY 10 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 ATAPOLLANS 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.

12. PRIOR HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT THE ISFAHAN EVENTS DESCRIBED IN TEHRAN 6502. TEHRAN 4942 HAS BEEN DESTROYED, AS ARE ALL CLASSIFIED OUTGOING CABLES AFTER THIRTY DAYS. DEPARTMENT SHOULD KEEP THIS PROCEDURE IN MIND WHEN TRANSMITTING CABLES.

13. 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: LBLAINC  
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CLEAR: POL: VLTOMSETH  
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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 REFTELS. 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. WHEREAS 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 (BUT 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 BAHAI'S 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 BAHAI'S--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 BAHAI'S HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE POST-REVOLUTION ERA. AND NONE OF THE MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN EXECUTED WERE BAHAI'S (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 BAHAUILLAH PROCLAIMING HIMSELF AS THE MISSING

BT

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SECRET

TEHRAN 6755/2

IMAM.

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

LAINGEN

BT

#6755

NNNN

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TEHRAN 6755/2

NNNNVV ESA823MJC919  
RR RUQMR  
DE RUMJGM #4698 2540515  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 110505Z SEP 79  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4882  
INFO RUQMR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 487  
BT  
CONFIDENTIAL

001625

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 4698

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, IR, CE

SUBJ: INCREASE IN IRANIAN VISA APPLICANTS IN SRI LANKA

1. SINCE END 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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#4698

CONS

CHRG  
POL  
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001742

NNNNVV ESB010BRA435  
OO RUQMR  
DE RUEHC #1745 2571858  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 141820Z SEP 79  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE 4546  
BT  
C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 241745

POL

CHARGE"  
ECON  
RF  
CHRON

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

TAGS: SHUM, SOFN, IR

SUBJECT: RUMORS OF ATTACKS ON BAHAI'S IN SHIRAZ

REF: TEHRAN 10001

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. MR. GLENN MITCHELL 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 WHO ARE PROSCRIBED 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'.
5. ANY INFORMATION THAT EMBASSY CAN DEVELOP ON SITUATION OF BAHAI'S WILL BE APPRECIATED. VANCE

BT

#1745

001875

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CHRG  
CONS  
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MINNVT ESB088BRA533  
OO RUQMHR  
PP RUHHC #4004 2602139  
TRY CCCCC 22H  
C 172127Z SEP 79  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE 4562

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 241704

E.O. 12065: G/S 9/17/85 (CLEMENT, CARL)

PAGE: SHUM, SOFN. 1R

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 BAH'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.  
VANCE

BT  
#4094

5

CONFIDENTIAL

TEHRAN 10284

DE RUQMR #0284 263 \*\*

BT CCCCC ZZH

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3881

BT  
O O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10284

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL  
CHRG: STAT 9/20/79  
APPRV: CHARGE: LBLAINGE  
DRFTD: POL: EASWIFT: GO  
CLEAR: NONE  
DISTR: POL2 CHG ICA  
ECON CONS CHRON  
RF

1.0. 12065: GDS 9/29/85 (SWIFT, ELIZABETH A.) OR-P

INFO: 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 HERETICS WHO ARE OPENLY DESPISED. (SOMEWHERE BETWEEN A SNAKE AND A COCKROACH IS THE USUAL DESCRIPTION). BAHAI'S FAVORED POSITION UNDER THE REGIME 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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CONFIDENTIAL 17

TEHRAN 10284

CHRON

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TEHRAN 10286

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ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3884  
BT  
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).

2. EMBOFF TALKED WITH NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR AUGUST 20 RE BAHAI'S. AMBASSADOR HAD TALKED WITH A MEMBER OF BAHAI 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 SYSTEMATICALLY DEMOLISHING IT.

3. GHADDEMI ALSO TOLD AMBASSADOR HE DID NOT THINK BAHAI'S 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; BAHAI 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 STIRRING UP INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN BAHAI'S. GHADDEMI SAID BAHAI'S HAVE SENT MANY LETTERS TO PRIME MINISTER BAZARGAN BUT THEY HAD BEEN IGNORED. LAINGEN  
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#0286

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CONFIDENTIAL

TEHRAN 10286

1





DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

(29)

October 3, 1979

CIRC  
File Baha'is  
*[Signature]*

OKV, 11

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,

*[Signature]*

Henry Precht

CONFIDENTIAL  
GDS 10/3/85



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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OFFICIAL-INFORMAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

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.

CONFIDENTIAL  
GDS 10/11/85



CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

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.

CONFIDENTIAL

21

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2040 2041 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049 2050 2051 2052 2053 2054 2055 2056 2057 2058 2059 2060 2061 2062 2063 2064 2065 2066 2067 2068 2069 2070 2071 2072 2073 2074 2075 2076 2077 2078 2079 2080 2081 2082 2083 2084 2085 2086 2087 2088 2089 2090 2091 2092 2093 2094 2095 2096 2097 2098 2099 2100 2101 2102 2103 2104 2105 2106 2107 2108 2109 2110 2111 2112 2113 2114 2115 2116 2117 2118 2119 2120 2121 2122 2123 2124 2125 2126 2127 2128 2129 2130 2131 2132 2133 2134 2135 2136 2137 2138 2139 2140 2141 2142 2143 2144 2145 2146 2147 2148 2149 2150 2151 2152 2153 2154 2155 2156 2157 2158 2159 2160 2161 2162 2163 2164 2165 2166 2167 2168 2169 2170 2171 2172 2173 2174 2175 2176 2177 2178 2179 2180 2181 2182 2183 2184 2185 2186 2187 2188 2189 2190 2191 2192 2193 2194 2195 2196 2197 2198 2199 2200 2201 2202 2203 2204 2205 2206 2207 2208 2209 2210 2211 2212 2213 2214 2215 2216 2217 2218 2219 2220 2221 2222 2223 2224 2225 2226 2227 2228 2229 2230 2231 2232 2233 2234 2235 2236 2237 2238 2239 2240 2241 2242 2243 2244 2245 2246 2247 2248 2249 2250 2251 2252 2253 2254 2255 2256 2257 2258 2259 2260 2261 2262 2263 2264 2265 2266 2267 2268 2269 2270 2271 2272 2273 2274 2275 2276 2277 2278 2279 2280 2281 2282 2283 2284 2285 2286 2287 2288 2289 2290 2291 2292 2293 2294 2295 2296 2297 2298 2299 2300 2301 2302 2303 2304 2305 2306 2307 2308 2309 2310 2311 2312 2313 2314 2315 2316 2317 2318 2319 2320 2321 2322 2323 2324 2325 2326 2327 2328 2329 2330 2331 2332 2333 2334 2335 2336 2337 2338 2339 2340 2341 2342 2343 2344 2345 2346 2347 2348 2349 2350 2351 2352 2353 2354 2355 2356 2357 2358 2359 2360 2361 2362 2363 2364 2365 2366 2367 2368 2369 2370 2371 2372 2373 2374 2375 2376 2377 2378 2379 2380 2381 2382 2383 2384 2385 2386 2387 2388 2389 2390 2391 2392 2393 2394 2395 2396 2397 2398 2399 2400 2401 2402 2403 2404 2405 2406 2407 2408 2409 2410 2411 2412 2413 2414 2415 2416 2417 2418 2419 2420 2421 2422 2423 2424 2425 2426 2427 2428 2429 2430 2431 2432 2433 2434 2435 2436 2437 2438 2439 2440 2441 2442 2443 2444 2445 2446 2447 2448 2449 2450 2451 2452 2453 2454 2455 2456 2457 2458 2459 2460 2461 2462 2463 2464 2465 2466 2467 2468 2469 2470 2471 2472 2473 2474 2475 2476 2477 2478 2479 2480 2481 2482 2483 2484 2485 2486 2487 2488 2489 2490 2491 2492 2493 2494 2495 2496 2497 2498 2499 2500 2501 2502 2503 2504 2505 2506 2507 2508 2509 2510 2511 2512 2513 2514 2515 2516 2517 2518 2519 2520 2521 2522 2523 2524 2525 2526 2527 2528 2529 2530 2531 2532 2533 2534 2535 2536 2537 2538 2539 2540 2541 2542 2543 2544 2545 2546 2547 2548 2549 2550 2551 2552 2553 2554 2555 2556 2557 2558 2559 2560 2561 2562 2563 2564 2565 2566 2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 2573 2574 2575 2576 2577 2578 2579 2580 2581 2582 2583 2584 2585 2586 2587 2588 2589 2590 2591 2592 2593 2594 2595 2596 2597 2598 2599 2600 2601 2602 2603 2604 2605 2606 2607 2608 2609 2610 2611 2612 2613 2614 2615 2616 2617 2618 2619 2620 2621 2622 2623 2624 2625 2626 2627 2628 2629 2630 2631 2632 2633 2634 2635 2636 2637 2638 2639 2640 2641 2642 2643 2644 2645 2646 2647 2648 2649 2650 2651 2652 2653 2654 2655 2656 2657 2658 2659 2660 2661 2662 2663 2664 2665 2666 2667 2668 2669 2670 2671 2672 2673 2674 2675 2676 2677 2678 2679 2680 2681 2682 2683 2684 2685 2686 2687 2688 2689 2690 2691 2692 2693 2694 2695 2696 2697 2698 2699 2700 2701 2702 2703 2704 2705 2706 2707 2708 2709 2710 2711 2712 2713 2714 2715 2716 2717 2718 2719 2720 2721 2722 2723 2724 2725 2726 2727 2728 2729 2730 2731 2732 2733 2734 2735 2736 2737 2738 2739 2740 2741 2742 2743 2744 2745 2746 2747 2748 2749 2750 2751 2752 2753 2754 2755 2756 2757 2758 2759 2760 2761 2762 2763 2764 2765 2766 2767 2768 2769 2770 2771 2772 2773 2774 2775 2776 2777 2778 2779 2780 2781 2782 2783 2784 2785 2786 2787 2788 2789 2790 2791 2792 2793 2794 2795 2796 2797 2798 2799 2800 2801 2802 2803 2804 2805 2806 2807 2808

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL  
CHRG: STAT 10/23/75  
APPRV: CHARGE: LBLAIN  
DRAID: POL: FLTHOMSE45  
CLEAR: POL: HPMECRT  
DISTR: POL: CRG ICA  
ECCN CONS CHN  
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1: (A) TERNAN 6421. (B) TERNAN 6755. (C) TERNAN 6831

10 - ENTIRE TEXT.

LEPTOFF PARLAMENT AND POLICEMEN MET WITH Y. K. GHADIMI, MEMBER OF THE IRANIAN BAHAI NATIONAL COUNCIL, OCTOBER 22. SESSION PRODUCED LITTLE SUBSTANCE NOT PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED (APPROX) ASIDE FROM GHADIMI'S STATEMENT THAT "IF SOME MEMBERS OF THE PLOI AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF EXPERTS CURRENTLY DEBATING IRAN'S DRAFT CONSTITUTION HAD SHOWN SYMPATHY TO THE BAHAI COMMUNITY'S POSITION. IT ANTICIPATED THAT SUCH VIEWS WERE REFLECTED IN THE PROPOSITION PROVIDED: THE RUINS OF THE HOUSE OF THE BAH (BAGH) (1922) FOLLOWING THE BUILDING'S COLLAPSE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HAD INSTRUCTED THE MAYOR OF SHIRAZ TO PREVENT EVENTS WHICH HAD "INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS."

SHADIMI AGAIN STRESSED THAT THE FOCUS OF BAA'I  
LIES IN IRAN LIES IN SECURING THAT IF NOT EXPLICIT  
IN PARAGRAPH 10. THE COMMUNITY'S CIVIL RIGHTS. HE  
STATED THAT THE SYMPATHY HE REFERS TO MIGHT, INDEED,  
BAGI AN "ILLUSORY" POLLS WITNESS WITH IRAN'S CURRENT  
POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. HE REMAINED "CONVINCED, HOWEVER,  
FOR THE HOME THE BAA'I COMMUNITY IS THE TARGET  
A CAMPAIGN OF "ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL  
REGULATION." HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE BAA'I LEADERSHIP  
TENDS TO REUSE AND IS NOT ENCOURAGING MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMUNITY TO LEAVE IRAN. HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE  
ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED BY THE U.S. DURING

TABLE 11-12

CONFIDENTIAL

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  
POL                                      NEA/IRN  
POL/M                                  INR/RNA  
ECON  
OR                                      Amconsul SHIRAZ 3  
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

CONFIDENTIAL

448Z JAN 79  
EMBASSY TEHRAN  
STATE WASHDC NIAC IMMEDIATE 2801

CONFIDENTIAL TEHRAN 00379

12065: XGDS 1/8/85 (LAMBRAXIS, GEORGE B) OR-P  
PINT, IR  
SUBJECT: STATUS OF MINORITY GROUPS

CHRG: STATE 1/9/79  
APPRV: DCM:CWNAAS  
REF: POL:GBLAMBRAXIS  
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  
T SPECIFIC ATTACKS ON BAHAIS OR OTHER MINORITIES  
AR TO THE LOOTING AND DESTRUCTION OF BAHAI PROPERTIES  
TOOK PLACE IN SHIRAZ ON DEC 13 (TEHRAN 12342). NCR HAVE  
OWNED BANKS OR SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS BEEN TARGETS OF  
FIC ATTACK AS THEY HAD BEEN IN BEGINNING OF TROUBLES  
MONTHS AGO. WE HAVE HEARD NO RECENT STORIES OF  
DUCTION OF JEWISH SHOPS OR HOMES IN PROVINCIAL CITIES.

EVERTHELESS, MINORITIES HAVE NOT BEEN EXEMPTED FROM  
G THEIR KNOCKS ALONG WITH OTHER PORTIONS OF POPULATION.  
OR A VARIETY OF REASONS THEY ARE SCARED. SOME (JEWS)  
HEARD DARK TALES OF HOW BAD THINGS WERE BEFORE THE  
VIS. OTHERS (PAHAIS) FEAR A KHOMEINI VICTORY WILL  
PGROMS AIMED AT PEOPLE LIKE THEMSELVES. THE  
IANS ARE KEEPING A LOW PROFILE SINCE HAVING RECEIVED  
ETS THREATING DEATH TO PEOPLE WHO COOPERATE WITH  
S REGIME. ATTENDANCE AT CHURCHES HAS DROPPED CONSI-  
LY. ZOROASTRIANS ARE ALSO WORRIED. ALL MINORITIES  
THE UNKNOWN IF THE SHAH DEPARTS -- AND MOST SEE HIS  
TURE HAND-WRITTEN ON THE WALL.

CCORDING TO THE UNOFFICIAL ISRAELI MISSION HERE,  
8-10,000 JEWS HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY, LEAVING A  
ITY OF 70,000 OR SO. SPOT CHECKS OF NIV ISSUANCE  
CONSULATE IN EARLY NOVEMBER FOUND MINORITY APPLICANTS  
NG AT 30-40 PERCENT OF TOTAL, WITH JEWS MAKING UP  
MAJORITY OF THOSE MINORITY APPLICANTS. THESE PER-  
GES APPEAR TO BE SUBSIDING SOMEWHAT IN JANUARY, AND  
SSUMPTION IS THAT MOST OF THOSE WHO WERE SCARED  
BY EVENTS LEADING UP TO ASHURA TO GO HAVE ALREADY  
AST GOTTEN THEIR VISAS. A NUMBER OF JEWS WITH  
ESSES HERE ARE TRAVELING TO U.S. OR ELSEWHERE TO  
OUT THE POSSIBILITIES ON THE GROUND BUT RETURNING  
ND THEIR BUSINESSES FOR THE TIME BEING. MANY OTHERS  
URSE HAVE NOWHERE TO GO AND NO MOVABLE WEALTH TO  
ATE ELSEWHERE WITH. THEIR ONLY OPTION IS TO KEEP  
HEADS DOWN.

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

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TEHRAN 00379



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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E.O. 12065 GDS 1/22/85 (PRECHT, HENRY)

TAOS: 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 PRECLUDE 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. ARGAE (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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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE 2434

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 125857

R.O. 12065 GDS, 5/17/85 (PRECHT, HENRY)

FROM: SHUM, 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  
PAREMARZ. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S  
RECOMMENDATIONS WHETHER A LETTER FROM MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
SAYING THAT THEY BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE IRAN WOULD BE  
HELPFUL. ONE SUGGESTION IS THAT LETTER BE ADDRESSED TO  
KHOMEINI 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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U.S. Government Printing Office: 1976-204-930

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STAT 10001  
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CONFIDENTIAL TEHRAN 0441

TO: 10001: 0 1/4/76 (STAMPAL, J.D.) OR-P  
FROM: SCHW, SOCI, IS  
SUBJ: IRANIAN JEWS

RE: STAT 10001

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT; REPORTING CABLE.

2. 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 EXITS. FROM NUMBER OF SOURCES, HOWEVER, WE CONCLUDE THAT BETWEEN 150 AND 300 JEWS PER DAY ARE LEAVING IRAN, DEPENDING ON CHARTER FLIGHTS; ON-BOARD ARRANGEMENTS, ETC. HEAVY FAMILY REPRESENTATION IN GROUPS LEAVING - I.E., BULK OF THOSE DEPARTING ARE FAMILY UNITS.

3. DISCUSSION WITH ITALIAN AND AUSTRIAN COLLEAGUES TURNED UP FACT BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER IRANIAN JEWISH FLIGHT TO PLOI IN PAST MONTH. IN AUSTRIAN CASE, AMBASSADOR DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM CHANCELLOR KERRY TO IRAN-FOREIGN MINISTER SANJABI ONE DAY BEFORE SANJABI LEFT OFFICE IN APRIL. ITALIANS HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PLOI RECENTLY. WITHIN PAST WEEK, AUSTRIANS HAVE ALSO RECEIVED SAME ASSURANCES USC RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THERE WAS NO RPT NO POTENTIAL AGAINST JEWS. ITALIANS DID NOT GET FOR OR GET CATEGORICAL ASSURANCE, BUT THEY ALSO BELIEVE THERE IS NO CAMPAIGN AGAINST JEWS.

4. WE HAVE NO RPT NO NEW EVIDENCE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A HOLDUP IN GRANTING EITHER PASSPORTS OR EXIT VISAS TO JEWS. ZIONIST PLOTTING HAS, OF COURSE, CONT UNDER FIRE AS RESULT OF ATTACKS AGAINST U.S. FOR JAVITS RESOLUTION IN SENATE. ASIDE FROM SHARPLY INCREASING ANXIETY OF JEWISH COMMUNITY IN TEHRAN, ATTACKS ON U.S. HAVE NOT RPT NOT HAD ANY APPARENT IMPACT ON TREATMENT OF JEWS WHO WISH TO LEAVE IRAN. NAAS

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TEHRAN 0441

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2. 120051 GDS 5/25/79 (RUBENSTEIN, IRWIN) OR-P  
 JEWISH COMMUNITY IN IRAN

1. (C-1 TIRE TEXT).

2. WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH ISRAELI  
 OFFICIALS ABOUT SITUATION OF JEWS IN IRAN, ALL OF WHICH  
 INDICATED 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. ANARON 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 YORAM 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 ELGHANIAN EXECUTION WAS NOT AN  
 INDIVIDUAL CASE AND THAT OTHER JEWS ARE BEING HELD AS  
 RANSOM. 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 TURN INTO VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST JEWS.

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4. BOTH AGREED THAT JEWS NOT ON THE BLACK LIST (WHICH THE HEARD HAS AS MANY AS 6,200 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 VISAS. 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 SHAH, 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

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TEHRAN 5001/1

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CLEAR: NONE  
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SECTION 21 OF TEHRAN 35631

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110000: GDS 6/1/70 (TOMSETH, V.L.) CR-F  
CIS, SRUM, IR  
IRANIAN JEWS

STATE 103857

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT: REPORTING MESSAGE)

2. SUMMARY: POL COUNS MET WITH RABBI SHOOFAT AND SON  
JUNE 1 AND RAISED WITH HIM QUESTIONS IN REEFEL.  
SUMMARY.

3. RABBI SHOOFAT SAID THAT HE BELIEVES THAT ONLY  
ELGHANIAN'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS REMAIN IN IRAN.  
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  
HE IS UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE SINCE HE HAD RUN  
FOR 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.  
HE SAID THAT HE AND HIS FATHER WOULD TRY TO ESTABLISH  
SOME KIND OF INDIRECT CONTACT. THE ELGHANIAN'S APPARENTLY  
WERE FREE TO MOVE AROUND, AND BOTH SHOOFATS OPINED THAT  
THEY WERE PROBABLY IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER.

4. WHEN ASKED WHAT HELP THE USG OR PRIVATE AMERICAN  
CITIZENS MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE, RABBI 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).  
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 RABBI 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 NEED DOES NOT  
INCLUDE PUBLICITY. POL COUNS ASKED SHOOFATS FOR THEIR  
VIEWS ON THE VALUE OF A QUIET APPROACH TO THE POOL ON  
ELGHANIAN'S BEHALF FOR EXIT VISAS. THEY THOUGHT IT  
WAS USEFUL, SINCE SEVERAL MEMBERS, INCLUDING PM  
ELGHANIAN, SEEM TO BE GENUINE IN THEIR DISTINCTION BETWEEN

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TEHRAN 5001/1

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TEHRAN 5681/1

ISRAEL AND ZIONISM ON THE ONE HAND AND ALIENATION 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 WANTING TO GO TO THE U.S. IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID, THAT A PROBLEM APPEARS TO HAVE DEVELOPED IN THAT THERE 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. POLCOUNS EXPLAINED THE U.S. POLICY OF GIVING A SYMPATHETIC HEARING TO MINORITY GROUP APPLICANTS, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE CONSULAR 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: POLCOUNS 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 DANIELPOUR. HE MENTIONED MEHRS, BAKHSIAN, SHAMSAN AND DARGHSETI 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 DANIELPOUR, 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.

2. 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.

3. 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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1065 GDS 6/20/85 (PRECHT, HENRY)

RE: IR

CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON IRANIAN JEWS

STATE 156044

- ENTIRE TEXT).

OFFS MET AS SCHEDULED ON JUNE 12 WITH CONGRESSMAN  
AND HIS GROUP AND ON JUNE 13 WITH CONGRESSMEN  
JACK AND GILMAN. IN BOTH MEETINGS WE PRESENTED  
REPORTING 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  
NOT AT THIS TIME TO PUSH FORWARD SUCH A RESOLU-  
TION. CONGRESSMEN UNDERSTOOD THE NEGATIVE EFFECT SUCH  
ACTION COULD HAVE ON THE CONDITION OF IRANIAN JEWS.

THERE WAS MUCH DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS RELATING TO  
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 CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF ISSUANCE OF VISAS FOR  
JEWS IN ROME AND WE EXPLAINED THAT WE WERE ATTEMPTING  
TO GET A VERY 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 REPORT PROVIDING INFERMA-  
TION ON DEPARTURES, ANY IMPRESSIONS YOU MAY  
HAVE, AND SUCH DATA AS IS AVAILABLE ON DEPARTURES OF  
JEWS FROM IRAN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT RATE OF DEPARTURES IS  
BEING REDUCED AND THAT IN FACT SOME JEWS WHO LEFT  
IRAN MAY HAVE BEEN TO RETURN. VANCE

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TEHRAN 7034/1

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 07034/1

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL  
CH-GE: STATE 7/6/79  
APPRV: CHARGE: LBLAI  
DRFTD: POL: VLTOMSET  
CLEAR: ECON/RBASH  
DISTR: POL-3 CHG EC  
ICA RF CHRON

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 FARSI--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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INFO RUD/PNQ/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 6738  
RUD/RIQ/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 1076  
RUD/IDF/AMEMBASSY REKJAVIK 3143  
RUD/PNQ/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 2773  
RUD/40/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 7797  
RUD/40/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3753  
RUD/40/AMEMBASSY PARIS 4300  
RUD/PNQ/AMEMBASSY OSLO 4310  
RUD/40/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 1222

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12249

R. 12265: GDS 7/28/85 (MCQUADE, W.M.) OR-P

TO: PEPR, MILI, ENRG, GW, NO, IR

SUBJECT: (C) SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO NORWAY

FROM: OSLO 3852 (NOTAL)

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. FOREIGN OFFICE NORDIC AFFAIRS OFFICER VON STAKELBERG  
GAVE US 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. STAKELBERG'S BRIEFING FOLLOWED LINES  
OF REFTEL IN GENERAL. ACCORDING TO STAKELBERG  
SCHMIDT REPORTED THAT KNEISKY AND BRANDT HAD ASKED  
ARAYAT'S HELP FOR THE JEWS IN IRAN. SCHMIDT INDICATED  
THAT ARAYAT HAD APPARENTLY AGREED TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO  
HELP.
5. OIL. STAKELBERG 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. STOKESSE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237028

CONS

CHRG  
POL  
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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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FM AMCONSUL MILAN

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

CONS

CHARGE"

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CHRON

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.

3. KASHANIAN ADDED THAT HE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH  
VARDIDIA, 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  
DIV 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.

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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TEHRAN 00783

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TO SECRETARY WASHDC URGENT IMMEDIATE 0047  
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STATE 1/16/79  
MIN CUNAAS  
POL JESTEMPEL RG  
POL BLAMERAKIS  
POL 3 AMB MIN  
ECON 2 PM LCA ORS  
ADM SY DAO AF081  
CHRON/15

E.C. 12065: CES 1/16/85 (STEMPEL, 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 21,778 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 "CLOSED" ZOROASTRIANS WOULD NEVER REGISTER THAT WAY WITH CENSUS BUREAU. LARGEST COMMUNITIES ARE IN TEHRAN, YAZD, 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 DISMISSED FROM GOVERNMENT POSTS 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 PLAMİYERS (ANNOUNCEMENTS) BY ISLAMIC CLERGY LEADERS ORGANIZATION (CLO) AS WELL AS STATEMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL MULLAHS AND AYATOLLAHS HAVE REDUCED GENERAL TENSENESS SOMEWHAT. CROWD BEHAVIOR IN WAKE OF SHAH'S DEPARTURE JAN 16 WILL OFFER NEXT MAJOR TEST OF IRANIAN TOLERANCE. SULLIVAN

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TEHRAN 5067

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EMBASSY TEHRAN  
ECSTATE WHEELDC PRIORITY 1400

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL  
CHRG: STATE  
APPRV: CHS: COWNAAS  
DEFTD: CON: CRICHARDSON  
CLEAR: NONE  
DISTR: CONS CHG POL  
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N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5067

120005: CDS 5/16/75 (RICHARDSON, C.W.) OR-C  
SHUM, CIVIS, IN  
VISAS AND IRANIAN MINORITIES

A. TEHRAN 5044, B. TEHRAN 1241, C. STATE 35557

(C - ENTIRE TEXT; ACTION REQUESTED)

AS REPORTED IN REFTEL B (PARA THREE) TEHRAN HAS LONG  
BEEN CONSCIOUS OF THE SITUATION OF MINORITIES IN IRAN.  
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  
OPERATIONS IN JULY. HOWEVER, IT CANNOT APPEAR THAT THE  
EMBASSY 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 THE GROUP'S SERIOUS DETRIMENT.

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

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

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