

PRIME MINISTER

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DESKBY 090800Z
FM WASHINGTON 090105Z APR 80
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NO 1383 OF 8 APRIL
INFO PRIORITY TEHRAN

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This is based - of course - on
a complete misunderstanding by Kingma
Brewster. He will see the LPS
again today and will be put right.
Washington are being kept in touch

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ms

US/IRAN: THE KHARG

1. WARREN CHRISTOPHER HAS JUST TELEPHONED ME IN SOME STATE ABOUT THE TELEGRAM HE HAS RECEIVED FROM THE US AMBASSADOR IN LONDON REPORTING OUR INTENTION AS EXPRESSED BY THE LORD PRIVY SEAL TODAY TO GO AHEAD WITH THE DELIVERY OF THE NAVAL VESSEL, KHARG, TO IRAN THIS FRIDAY. THE US AMBASSADOR WAS CONVEYING A MESSAGE ASKING US TO MAINTAIN AS MUCH PRESSURE AS POSSIBLE UPON IRAN AND WHAT THE LORD PRIVY SEAL IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID ABOUT THE DELIVERY OF THIS SHIP HAS GONE DOWN EXTREMELY BADLY HERE.

2. CHRISTOPHER SAID THAT THE MOOD OF THE U.S.A. IS INCREASINGLY TURNING AGAINST THE ALLIES FOR NOT GIVING THE US ADEQUATE SUPPORT EITHER ON IRAN OR AFGHANISTAN. HE HAD BEEN ON A TELEVISION PROGRAMME THIS MORNING WHEN HE HAD BEEN MADE DIRECTLY AWARE OF THE UPSURGE OF THIS FEELING. THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT IT WOULD GROW, RATHER THAN DIMINISH. AN ACT SUCH AS WAS NOW PROPOSED OF DELIVERING A NAVAL VESSEL TO IRAN WOULD BE TAKEN TO SYMBOLISE BRITISH LACK OF UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT.

3. I MUST SAY THAT I HAD NOT BEEN UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE INTENDING TO DELIVER THIS VESSEL IMMEDIATELY. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE VERY ADVERSE EFFECT UPON OUR RELATIONS HERE. BOTH PUBLIC OPINION AND THE US GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE IT VERY BADLY AND OUR INTERESTS WILL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED IN OTHER SPHERES.

4. I URGE THEREFORE THAT SUCH A DECISION, IF IT REALLY HAS BEEN MADE, SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED.

5. VANCE HAS SUMMONED ME, WITH THE OTHER AMBASSADORS OF THE 7, FOR 2.00 P.M. TOMORROW TO REEMPHASISE AMERICAN EXPECTATION OF THE SUPPORT OF HER ALLIES ON IRAN.

PLEASE PASS ADVANCE COPY TO MED.
HENDERSON

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