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TO: PRIORITY TEHERAN.

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PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR HELMS FROM BYROADE

FOREIGN SECRETAY SHAHI TOOK INITIATIVE YESTERDAY TO INQUIRE ABOUT YOUR VISIT HERE. HE SIAD THAT SINCE ISLAMAIC CONFERENCE POSTPONED. YOUR PREFERRED DATES OF JANUARY 10-13 WOULD BE GOOD HERE. IF YOU CANNOT NOW MAKE THESE DATES. THEY WOULD BE GIAD TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER DATE IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

HOPE THESE DATES ARE STILL CONVENIENT TO YOU. BUT WE CAN DO IT LATER ON IF YOU WISH. I HAD PLANNED TO GET NEW DATES FROM BHUTTO WHEN I NEXT SEE HIM. THIS INITIATIVE ON THEIR PART SHOWS THAT THEY ARE AS EAGER AS WE REGARDS YOUR VISIT. WARMEST REGARDS. HR70-14

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