

27 MAR 76 04 23Z

~~S E C R E T~~ 261906Z MAR 76 STAFF

CITE DIRECTOR

TO: TEHRAN.

RYBAT

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO AMBASSADOR HELMS FOR HIS INFORMATION: SENATOR PROXMIRE'S OFFICE, APPARENTLY SPARKED BY PRESS INTEREST, HAS ASKED THE AGENCY ABOUT THREE PERSIAN RUGS GIVEN IN THE PAST TO U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BY IRANIAN GOVERNMENT. REQUEST COINED IN TERMS OF THE SENATOR'S PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT CONCERNING GIFTS. QUESTION IS CURRENT LOCATION OF THESE RUGS, PARTICULARLY ONE ALLEGEDLY GIVEN TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE. HAVE ADVISED PROXMIRE'S OFFICE THAT OUR RECORDS SHOW RECEIPT ONE SUCH RUG, 3 AND ONE-HALF BY 5 FEET ESTIMATED VALUE OF \$600 WHICH ON DISPLAY IN THE HQS BUILDING. ALSO SAID IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING ONE RUG WAS GIFT TO THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN. FURTHER QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. LATTER ALERTED. AT NO TIME WAS DONOR MENTIONED BY THE AGENCY. IT IS CLEAR FROM SEPARATE PRESS QUERIES, HOWEVER, THAT IDENTITIES OF DONOR AND AGENCY RECIPIENT KNOWN.

2. NO FILE. E2 IMPDET.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2008

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Delivered to Amb 0800
28 Mar 76

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