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~~S E C R E T~~ 300059Z MAR 76 STAFF

CITE DIRECTOR [REDACTED]

TO: PRIORITY TEHRAN.

FOR AMBASSADOR HELMS FROM DAVID BLEE.

REFS: A. DIRECTOR [REDACTED]  
B. TEHRAN [REDACTED]

1. I AM TAKING THE LIBERTY OF REPLYING TO YOUR REF B MESSAGE IN THE ABSENCE OF GENERAL WALTERS AND BILL NELSON. SORRY ABOUT THE CONFUSION

THE FACTS ARE: A STAFF MEMBER OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CONTACTED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE TWO ADDITIONAL PERSIAN CARPETS OUT OF A TOTAL OF THREE THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN AS PRESENTS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER BY GENERAL BARZANI. HE STATED THAT HIS INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT WAS CONNECTED WITH SENATOR PROX-MIRE'S CURRENT EFFORTS TO INTRODUCE AN AMENDMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT CONCERNING GIFTS.

2. [REDACTED] CORRECTLY DECLINED TO COMMENT AND REFERRED THE STAFFER TO THE AGENCY'S OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL (OLC) IF HE SHOULD WANT TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER. [REDACTED] THEN NOTIFIED CIA OF THE ABOVE AND REMINDED THE AGENCY THAT ONE OF THE THREE CARPETS IN QUESTION HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER BY CIA HQS. A SECOND RUG HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO AMBASSADOR HELMS AND [REDACTED] BELIEVED THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD PLACED IT IN THE TEHRAN EMBASSY. A THIRD RUG HAD BEEN GIVEN TO [REDACTED] WHICH HE TURNED IN TO CIA IN CONFORMANCE WITH HQS REGULATIONS. WHEN THE SAME STAFFER TELEPHONED THE OLC, THE LATTER OFFICE PASSED HIM THE SUBSTANCE OF THE REF A INFORMATION.

3. WHILE THE AGENCY MADE NO REFERENCE TO BARZANI AS THE DONOR TO THE SENATE STAFFER, WE ARE AWARE THAT PROXMIRE'S OFFICE IS REFERRING TO BARZANI AS THE DONOR NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF AN INQUIRY FROM THE PRESS ON THIS SUBJECT TO CIA HQS (WHICH WAS FENDED OFF)- BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE SENATE STAFFER IN QUESTION MADE CLEAR IN HIS INITIAL CONVERSATION WITH [REDACTED] THAT HE WAS INDEED TALKING ABOUT RUGS

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PAGE 2 DIRECTOR  ~~S E C R E T~~  
GIVEN BY GENERAL BARZANI. ALSO, PRESS QUERIES TO HQS INDICATE  
KNOWLEDGE THAT DR. KISSINGER AND THE AMBASSADOR TO TEHRAN WERE RECI-  
PIENTS OF BARZANI RUGS.

4. WE SURMISE THAT INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT AROSE BECAUSE OF  
THE REFERENCE TO BARZANI'S GIFTS IN LEAKS BELIEVED TO HAVE COME FROM  
THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE WHICH HAD INVESTIGATED  
THE KURDISH SITUATION IN DEPTH.

5. AGAIN, PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES FOR THE CONFUSION IN THE  
REFERENCED TRAFFIC AND I HOPE THIS MESSAGE WILL CLARIFY THE SITUA-  
TION.

6. NO FILE. E2 IMPDET.  
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