

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2005/06/13 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100010064-7

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CLASSIFICATION

CIA/OCT/WH12 740115

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/WH12

SOURCE REF:

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ITEM NO: C

DATE: 31 JAN 74

SUBJECT: IRAN--TERRORIST THREAT AGAINST AMERICANS

AN ALLEGED IRANIAN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, IDENTIFYING ITSELF AS "THE BAZARGAN BRIGADE" HAS TELEPHONED A THREAT TO THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN TEHRAN. THE CALL WAS RECEIVED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF A MAJOR WIRE SERVICE WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE RECOGNIZED THE VOICE AS THE SAME ONE MAKING PREVIOUS ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE CALLS TO HIM. THE CALLER WARNED THAT IF ANY OF THE 12 IRANIAN CURRENTLY UNDER INDICTMENT FOR PLOTTING AGAINST THE ROYAL FAMILY IS EXECUTED, THE "BAZARGAN BRIGADE" WILL EXECUTE FOUR AMERICANS FOR EACH IRANIAN KILLED.

WE AGREE WITH THE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT THAT THE THREAT SHOULD

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State Department review completed

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BE VIEWED SERIOUSLY REQUIRING THE ADDED SECURITY

ALTHOUGH LITTLE IS KNOWN OF THIS PARTICULAR GROUP, THERE ARE DISSIDENT ELEMENTS IN IRAN, SOME ALLEGEDLY TRAINED BY THE FEDAYEEN IN NEIGHBORING IRAQ, WHICH HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF CARRYING OUT THREATS AGAINST FOREIGNERS IN TEHRAN.

THE "BAZARGAN BRIGADE"

APPEARS TO BE A SPIN-OFF FROM THE CURRENTLY ACTIVE "PEOPLES STRUGGLERS" WHICH IN TURN EVOLVED FROM THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT FOUNDED BY ENGINEER MEHDI BAZARGAN. THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT IS CHARACTERIZED AS A GUERRILLA AND TERRORIST ORGANIZATION HAVING SUPPORT FROM SOME RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS AND BAZAAR MERCHANTS. IT WAS ENGAGED IN SABOTAGE AND IN SKIRMISHES WITH THE POLICE. IT WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE KILLING OF LT. COL. HAWKINS, US ARMY, IN JUNE 1973.

THE "BAZARGAN BRIGADE" HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH THE ALLEGED PLOT AGAINST THE SHAH AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WHICH CAME TO LIGHT LAST OCTOBER WITH THE ARREST OF THE 12 IRANIANS. MEMBERS OF THIS RING INCLUDED NEWSPAPER

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EMPLOYEES, FILMMAKERS, AND MEMBERS OF A WELL-KNOWN FAMILY, AS WELL AS ONE MAN WHO WAS INVOLVED IN A PREVIOUS ATTEMPT ON THE SHAH'S LIFE IN 1965. MEMBERS OF THE MIDDLE-CLASS ELITE, REPRESENTED BY THE TWELVE, HAVE RARELY BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITY.

IT IS OUR PRELIMINARY VIEW THAT, RATHER THAN ACTUALLY BEING INVOLVED IN THE OCTOBER PLOT, THE BAZARGAN GROUP, LIKE OTHER IRANIAN DISSIDENT ELEMENTS--INCLUDING SOME IRANIAN STUDENTS IN THE US--IS MERELY EXPRESSING ITS SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR THE GROUP CURRENTLY UNDER INDICTMENT. IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE ACTUAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLOT. THIS, OF COURSE, DOES NOT MAKE THE THREAT ANY LESS REAL. A SIMILAR THREAT WAS MADE IN JUNE 1973 AND WAS CONTAINED IN A LETTER IDENTIFIED AS COMING FROM THE "BAZIZADEGAN GROUP." THIS LETTER THREATENED THAT THE GROUP WOULD EXECUTE FOUR AMERICANS FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE "PEOPLES STRUGGLERS" WHO WAS EXECUTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEATH OF LT. COL. THAMKINS LAST JUNE.

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