

~~SECRET~~ 201447 Z MAR 74 [ ]

CITE TEHRAN [ ]

TO: AMBASSADOR BYRON DE EYES ONLY

FROM: AMBASSADOR HELMS, TEHRAN

1. THIS WILL ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR 2011322Z MARCH [ ]

[ ]

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2. WHEN I WAS IN WASHINGTON ON MARCH 9, SID SOBER RAISED WITH ME THIS ~~ENGINE~~<sup>POSSIBLE</sup> APPROACH TO THE SHAH ON THE RETROFIT OF TANKS. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD NO OBJECTION TO TRYING IF THAT WAS THE ROUTE THE SECRETARY AND HE WANTED TO ~~BE~~ ROUTE ~~THE~~ GO. IT APPARENTLY IS. I AM NOT REPEAT NOT SANGUINE, BUT WE WILL JUST HAVE TO SEE.

3. MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS IN SENDING ME THE REFERENT MESSAGE. FRANKLY, IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT YOU WOULD HAVE ORIGINATED THE IDEA WITHOUT LETTING ME KNOW.

4. WARM REGARDS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR IRANIAN STYLE.

~~SECRET~~

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DATE: MAR 2008

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RELEASE: mt