

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Z JAN 75

CITE TEHRAN \_\_\_\_\_

TO: IMMEDIATE SAIGON.

PERSONAL FOR THE AMBASSADOR

REF: SAIGON

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY WHO IS WITH THE SHAH ON HIS EGYPTIAN TRIP, I SPOKE WITH JAFAR NADIM, UNDERSECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ABOUT THE MATTER YOU RAISED IN REFERENCED MESSAGE. NADIM, WHILE NOT STRICTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ICCS AFFAIRS WITHIN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, HE IS BY FAR THE BRIGHTEST OF THE UPPER ECHELON IN THE MINISTRY AND THE MAN KHALATBARY TURNS TO FOR ADVICE AND COUNSEL ON DIFFICULT OR DELICATE MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE.

2. NADIM WAS ALREADY AWARE OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROPRIETY OF HAVING AMBASSADOR ESFANDIARY CONCURRENTLY ACCREDITED TO SAIGON AND AS HEAD OF THE IRANIAN DELEGATION TO THE ICCS THROUGH A REPORT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM IRANIAN CHARGE' MEHIDI MOGADAM. NADIM SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED THE AWKWARDNESS OF THIS ARRANGEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN MADE BECAUSE OF ESFANDIARY'S CONCERNS ABOUT HIS CHILDREN'S CONTINUED EDUCATION IN BANGKOK. HE WILL BE LEAVING TOMORROW TO JOIN FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY IN ISTANBUL AND WILL RAISE THE QUESTION WITH HIM. HE TOLD ME THAT IT WILL BE HIS RECOMMENDATION THAT ESFANDIARY CONTINUE IN HIS POST AT ~~KXNK~~ BANGKOK BUT THAT HE BE INSTRUCTED HIS PRINCIPAL MISSION WILL BE AS HEAD OF THE IRANIAN ICCS DELEGATION RESIDENT IN SAIGON. HE WILL NOT BE

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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

PAGE 2 TEHRAN ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ACCREDITED AS AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH VIETNAM, A RESPONSIBILITY HOPE CAN BE GIVEN TO SOME OTHER OFFICIAL. HE WILL LET ME KNOW HOW HIS PROPOSAL FARES WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR SO.

3. NADIM IS ALSO WELL AWARE OF MOGADAM'S SHORTCOMINGS AND WILL URGE THAT SOME OTHER ASSIGNMENT BE FOUND FOR HIM. AS I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE, THE IRANIAN FOREIGN SERVICE IS NOT A MODEL MERITOCRACY AND THIS EXPLAINS WHY MOGADAM, WHO IS WELL CONNECTED TO THE IRANIAN ESTABLISHMENT, HOLDS A SENIOR POSITION.

4. NADIM WILL CERTAINLY TELL KHALATBARY OF OUR CONVERSATION AND I HOPE THAT IT WILL PROVE TO HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN GETTING THE IRANIAN REPRESENTATION IN SAIGON QUESTION SORTED OUT TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT AND SATISFACTION. REGARDS. MIKLOS.

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