

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CIA, ER,
JOB 80301086A

Executive Registry
71-3985

BOX 1
Folder ER Subj
FILES, I-13, IRAN

26 JUL 1971

Honorable William P. Rogers
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bill:

[REDACTED]

As the Ambassador mentions in the last paragraph, we discussed this subject during my recent visit to Teheran. When I returned I passed on the Ambassador's views to Under Secretary Johnson, and I am now having my experts look into technical and other aspects of assisting the Iranians in this problem. I will let you know what their findings are.

Below follows the text of Ambassador MacArthur's message to you:

"I have become increasingly concerned at the extent to which insecurity of Iranian communications probably reveals to the Soviets details of Iranian-U.S. diplomacy. Over a period of time this could become a serious obstacle to effective pursuit of our national interests and Soviet knowledge could be exploited by them to the detriment of our close and valuable relationships with the GOI.

"Over the past year or so, various agencies of the GOI at first somewhat diffidently sought our advice and assistance in improving the security and effectiveness of intelligence and diplomatic circuits. Recently their requests have become more insistent and sharply focused.

[REDACTED] The latest request came from Foreign Minister Zahedi who on 18 July expressed to me serious misgivings about his communications and asked me for assistance in improving the Foreign Ministry's cryptographic procedures.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

I-17

~~SECRET~~

"The GOI has the means to obtain more sophisticated equipment from sources other than the U.S. Government. There is no doubt whatever in my mind that they will go this route if they find our response negative or equivocal. We have seen many examples of this tendency in their procurement of military equipment and in their current efforts to procure electronic equipment. Sooner or later we are going to have to face this issue squarely and it is my view that our long run interests will be best served if we face it now.

"Due to the extreme sensitivity of this matter and because I also discussed it briefly with Dick Helms during his recent visit here, [REDACTED] I would appreciate your reaction to above after you and Dick have had an opportunity to consider what we may be able to do."

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms
Richard Helms
Director

cc: Under Secretary of State U. Alexis Johnson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]