

NP, NSC, Pres. Trip Files,
Box 481
Folder: Iran visa

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Materials Staff

[Chester] (pr. 1)

For: ~~Mr. Haldeman~~
Chap. (H.W. 6)
Parker

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 28, 1971 35327

INFORMATION

[Redacted]

fyi

MEMORANDUM FOR : THE PRESIDENT
FROM : HENRY A. ~~RISSINGER~~ ^{THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....}
SUBJECT : Your Foreign Travels -- Possibility
of Including Iran

Secretary Rogers (attached) strongly recommends you try to include Iran in your foreign travels--notably in connection with your trip to Moscow--or make some alternative arrangement to see the Shah. Ambassador MacArthur returned here last month with word that the Shah is still counting on your promise to visit him this term in office as you told him in 1969 and reaffirmed this year. Last week Ambassador Afshar approached me to express the Shah's hope you will be coming. I was sympathetic in expressing your deep interest in Iran but was noncommittal on the precise question of a visit or its timing.

There are two aspects of the Shah's interest. One, of course, is his special relationship with you and his great sensitivity and pride in not being overlooked, especially in view of the fact that you are meeting with other major leaders in connection with your Peking/Moscow travels. On the substantive side, he has overriding concerns about long-range Soviet objectives in the area, including the Persian Gulf and Indian sub-continent.

I am sending this to you just to inform you that the Shah has raised this question again. You will probably need to wait until nearer the time to see what competing invitations you have. While I had my doubts previously I now believe that with the momentous developments in South Asia and the potential in the Mid-East, a visit to Iran is a serious proposition.

I agree
H+R
Right after
Demonte
Lawrence

[Redacted]

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Tab A

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 2,,1971

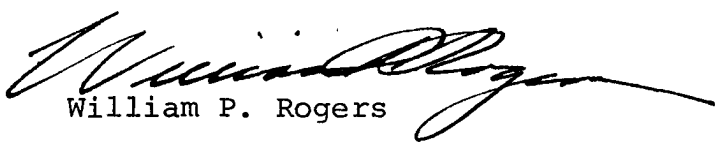
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Visit by You to Iran Either Just
Before or Just After Your Visit
to Moscow

Ambassador MacArthur has reported that the Shah of Iran is counting upon you to keep the commitment you made in 1969, and reaffirmed in 1971, to visit Iran during your present term in office. The Shah is a proud and sensitive man; in the light of your visits to Moscow and Peking, and of your upcoming meetings with at least five other heads of state and government, I believe we are headed for serious trouble if you do not also visit Iran or make some other arrangement to meet the Shah soon.

The Shah remains apprehensive of Soviet Union long-range designs upon Iran and the Persian Gulf. He feels encircled by the Soviet penetration of the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent. A visit by you to Tehran or at least a meeting with the Shah would help meet an outstanding commitment, and also serve to reaffirm the importance of our interest in a strong, friendly, and independent Iran. I therefore strongly recommend that you add Tehran to your travel itinerary, for example in connection with your Moscow trip, or make some other arrangement to meet with the Shah.


William P. Rogers

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PA/HO Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
June 21, 2006