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CITE SAIGON [REDACTED]

TO: PRIORITY TEHRAN.

EYES ONLY [REDACTED]

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING EYES ONLY MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR HELMS FROM AMBASSADOR MARTIN. BEGIN TEXT:

THE DESCRIPTION IN GENEVA'S [REDACTED] OF THE PERFORMANCE OF AMBASSADOR ASSAD SADRI AS "BARELY ADEQUATE" IS A VERY GENEWBUS APPRZUSAL. DURING THE YEARS I HAVE BEEN IN AND OUT OF GENEVA, I HAVE RARELY HEARD A GOOD WORD SPOKEN ABOUT HIS ABILITY. AS I RECALL, HE WAS A RALATIVE--A COUSIN, PERHAPS, OF PRINCE SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN. I WAS TOLD SADRUDDIN USED HIM TO KEEP RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST BLOC COUNTRIES IN GOOD REPAIR DURING THE PERIOD SADRUDDIN HAD SOME HOPES OF SUCCEEDING U THANT AS UNSYG.

PERHAPS, AS I ENTER MY SIXTIES, I AM LOSING BOTH MY SUNNY DISPOSITION AND ALSO MY OPTIMISTIC FAITH IN MY FELLOW MAN, AND AM BECOMING A CRANKY, CANTANKEROUS, SUSPICIOUS OLD BASTARD (I NEED NO CRACKS FROM YOU THAT I GOT MY TENSES WRONG IN THAT LAST PHRASE). SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, THIS DOES WORRY ME A BIT.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: MAR 2008

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THE POLGARIANS ARE DIFFICULT ENOUGH. THE INDONESIANS ARE LIKELY, WITHOUT CANADIAN STIFFENING, TO BECOME EVEN MORE WOBBLY. TO ADD A WEAK LEADER OF THE IRSNIAN TEAM, WHO CAN QUITE POSSIBLY BE INFLUENCED BY LEFTIST PRESSURES, DOES NOT EXACTLY FILL ME WITH JOY.

I WONDER, THOUGH, IF YOU COULD ASK YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THE PLACE YOU FORMERLY LED WITH DISTINCTION TO GIVE YOU A RUNDOWN ON WHAT, IF ANYTHING, THEY HAVE ON ASSAD SADRE. IF IT LOOKS TOO BAD, YOU MIGHT HAVE A WAY OF SUGGESTING THAT ONE OF THEIR BEST AND TOUGHEST OUGHT TO BE USED AS IRANIAN TEAM LEADER - AT LEAST FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTH PERIOD. IF YOUR CLIENTS ARE LOOKING FOR PRESTIGE FROM THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THIS EXERCISE, SADRE IS NOT THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR THE INITIAL LEADER.

THIS ISN'T REALLY IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO ASK YOU TO MAKE VERY MUCH OF AN EFFORT WITH YOUR CLIENTS, BUT IT OCCURED TO ME THAT IT JUST MIGHT BE DONE IN A WAY THAT THE IRANIANS WOULD THINK YOU HAD DONE THEM A FAVOR RATHER THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

HAVING COMMUTED TO GENEVA FROM PARIS DURING THE 1954

PAGE 3 SAIGON [ ] ~~SECRET~~

INDOCHINA CONFERENCE AND HAVING BEEN CHIEF OF MISSION PP  
GENEVA DURING THE 1962 LAOS CONFERENCE, I HAVE NO ILLUSIONS  
WHATEVER ABOUT ANYTHING CONSTRUCTIVE COMING OUT OF THE  
ICCS OPERATION, BUT A GOOD, TOUGH LEADER OF THE FIRST  
IRANIAN CONTINGENT COULD HELP IN A DAMAGE CONTROL OPERATION.  
SO I THOUGHT I WOULD BOTHER YOU ABOUT IT.

ITS BEEN A QUITE INTERESTING SIX WEEKS ALMOST. I HAVE  
CONCLUDED THESE THOUGH, OBSTREPEROUS LITTLE CHAPS ARE GOING  
TO MAKE IT. OUR SIDE, THAT IS.

AFFECTIONATE REGARDS TO YOU AND OUR LOVE TO CYNTHIA.

END TEXT.

E2 IMPDET

~~SECRET~~