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WOTE TEHRAN [ ]

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER, WASHINGTON

FROM: AMBASSADOR HELMS, TEHRAN

REFERENCE: WH 31939

1. [ ] INFORMED SHAH IN NOWSHAHR  
24 AUGUST OF OUR DECISION TO INCREASE CASH SUBSIDY FOR  
BARZANI BY FIFTY PER CENT COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 1973. SHAH  
WAS IMPRESSED AND GRATIFIED BY THE SPEED OF THIS WASHINGTON  
DECISION AND BY YOUR PROMPT NOTIFICATION TO HIM. HE NOW  
PLANS TO INCREASE HIS OWN SUBSIDY BY "A LITTLE MORE" THAN  
FIFTY PER CENT. NOBLESSE OBLIGE.

2. THE SHAH SAID OUR DECISION IS IMPORTANT AND MOST  
TIMELY BOTH BECAUSE BARZANI BADLY NEEDS MORE MONEY AND  
BECAUSE THE MONEY IS SYMBOLIC OF OUR MORAL SUPPORT. (HE  
DID NOT SAY, BUT IT IS EQUALLY TRUE, THAT THE INCREASE OF  
OUR SUBSIDY IN RESPONSE TO THE SHAH'S RECOMMENDATION IS  
SYMBOLIC OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THE SHAH AND HE LIKES THIS  
REASSURANCE TOO.)

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3. CONSIDERING THE PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS IN WHICH IRAQ HAS ENGAGED EVEN WITH THE HANDICAP OF KURDISH RESISTANCE, ONE CAN IMAGINE, THE SHAH SAID, WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE IF THE BA'TH REGIME DID NOT HAVE TO COPE WITH THE KURDISH PROBLEM. IT IS ESSENTIAL, HE BELIEVES, TO KEEP BARZANI'S KURDISH DEMOCRATIC PARTY FROM JOINING THE BA'TH-COMMUNIST NATIONAL FRONT. HE ADDED THAT BARZANI HAD FOLLOWED HIS GUIDANCE BY MAKING AS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS, THAT THE REGIME HOLD FREE GENERAL ELECTIONS, SOMETHING THE BA'TH COULD NOT DO WITHOUT BEING SWEEPED FROM POWER. INCIDENTALLY, SHAH SAID HE IS ASKING BARZANI TO RETURN HERE 1 SEPTEMBER.

4. WARM REGARDS.

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