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FM THE WHITE HOUSE

~~SECRET~~ DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS WH42453

TO: CHARGE AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
FROM: SECRETARY SIMON

SUBJECT: REMARKS ABOUT SHAH

1. AN ARTICLE WILL APPEAR IN THE AMERICAN BANKER MONDAY, JULY 22, 1974, CONTAINING UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ABOUT THE SHAH'S UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ABOUT IRAN ATTRIBUTED TO ME.
2. THE AMERICAN BANKER HAS A CIRCULATION OF 15,000 AND DOES NOT RELEASE MATERIALS TO NON-SUBSCRIBERS. THE EDITOR, WILLIAM RAPPALYE IS TRAVELING WITH THE PRESS ACCOMPANYING THE SIMON TRIP. QUOTE REFERENCE TO THE ABOVE IS "THE SHAH IS A NUT"
3. I RECOMMEND ISSUING THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO ANY QUERY REGARDING THE REFERENCE TO THE SHAH: IN TALKING WITH THE REPORTERS FROM THE AMERICAN BANKER I MADE NO STATEMENT INTENDED TO CHARACTERIZE THE SHAH IN AN OFFENSIVE MANNER. THE ARTICLE PREPARED BY THE REPORTER WAS THE RESULT OF A GROSS MISUNDERSTANDING OF MY VIEWS, SINCE IN FACT I HAVE THE GREATEST RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR THE SHAH'S LEADERSHIP IN HIS COUNTRY'S FAR REACHING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.
4. I HAVE ASKED TREASURY PUBLIC AFFAIRS TO CALL COUNSELLOR RUSH AND GERRY WARREN FOR FUTURE ADVICE. COPY OF DENIAL STATEMENT IN PARAGRAPH 3 HAS BEEN SENT TO TREASURY PUBLIC AFFAIRS WITH INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO RELEASE WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.
5. RECOMMEND AMBASSADOR HELMS, AT HIS DISCRETION SPEAK TO SHAH BEFORE ARTICLE APPEARS.

SIMON

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2008

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