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CITE SAIGON IMMEDIATE

TO: TEHRAN.

PERSONAL FOR THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES

1. WITH ONE DEPARTURE OF AMBASSADOR SADRY FOR ALGIERS, WE ARE FACING A PROBLEM WITH THE IRANIAN DELEGATION WHICH MAY BECOME A BIT STICKY UNLESS WE CAN FIND SOME WAY TO GRACEFULLY INTERCEDE TO PREVENT IT DEVELOPING INTO AN AWKWARD SITUATION BETWEEN THE GVN AND THE GOI.
2. ON 8 JANUARY THE IRANIAN ICCS DELEGATION SENT A NOTE TO THE RVN MILITARY DELEGATION TO THE CENTRAL TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION SAYING THAT SADRY HAS BEEN REPLACED BY AMBASSADOR SADIGH ESPANDIARY, WHO IS PRESENTLY ACCREDITED AS IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO SAIGON WHILE RESIDENT IN BANGKOK.
3. IT HAS NOT BEEN CLEAR WHETHER IT IS THE IRANIAN INTENTION TO REPLACE HIM AS AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND AND VIET-NAM. GENERAL HIEP THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ICCS HAS CALLED IN THE IRANIAN CHARGE AND GENTLY ASKED WHETHER IT REALLY IS A GOOD IDEA FOR ONE MAN TO HOLD THE POST AS AMBASSADOR TO SAIGON WHILE ALSO HOLDING THE SEMI-JUDICIAL POST AS HEAD OF THE ICCS DELEGATION. WHILE THERE IS A PRECEDENT FOR HAVING AN AMBASSADOR TO A COUNTRY OTHER THAN VIET-NAM ACT ALSO AS ICCS DELEGATION HEAD (INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR DHARSOND WAS ACCREDITED TO PHNOM PENH WHILE SERVING AS HEAD OF THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION) THERE IS NONE FOR THE FORMER CASE.
4. TO MAKE MATTERS EVEN MORE DANGEROUS THE IRANIAN CHARGE MENDI KHAZENI NORSADAM IS AN IDIOT. HE CAME UP TO OUR ICCS LIAISON OFFICER AT THE AIRPORT AND IN THE PRESENCE OF THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN CHARGES REPEATED WHAT HIEP HAD TOLD HIM, ELICITING FROM THEM THIS WAS AN INTERESTING QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. WE CAN, THEREFORE, DEPEND ON OUR COMMUNIST FRIENDS TO EXPLOIT THE MATTER IN THE FUTURE.

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5. I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE IRANIAN CHARGE IS SO BAD THAT NO OTHER IRANIAN AMBASSADOR WILL HAVE HIM AND WHILE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE MAIL ROOM AND SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME DENOUNCING HIS COLLEAGUES TO SAVAK, AN ORGANIZATION WITH WHICH HE CLAIMS TO HAVE GREAT INFLUENCE. SADRY SENT HIM BACK TO TEHRAN AND HE WAS PERMITTED TO RETURN ONLY AFTER DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO ASSIGN SADRY TO ALGIERS. THE LOCAL IRANIAN MILITARY OFFICERS WILL IGNORE HIM.

6. SINCE HE WANTS VERY MUCH TO REMAIN AS CHARGE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE I ASSUME HIS REPORTING OF GUN CONCERNS WILL BE DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THAT GOAL AND WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE PRECISE NOR ACCURATE.

7. A FURTHER COMPLICATION IS THAT WE UNDERSTAND ESPANDIARY IS AN EXCELLENT MAN BUT IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID TAKING THIS ASSIGNMENT, WHICH CONFIRMS HIS GOOD SENSE, AT LEAST, AND IS FINDING EVERY POSSIBLE EXCUSE TO DELAY HIS ARRIVAL IN SAIGON.

8. OPTIMUM SOLUTION WOULD BE TO HAVE ESPANDIARY REPORT HERE SOONEST WITH NO OTHER FUNCTION THAN ICES. IF HE IS AS GOOD AS HE IS SUPPOSED TO BE HE WILL SUMMARILY DISPENSE WITH THE PRESENT CHARGE. HOWEVER, IF HE IS TO BE LONG DELAYED THEN A NEW CHARGE WOULD BE ESSENTIAL.

9. IN ANY EVENT, IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO KNOW WHETHER THE GOI INTENDS TO ASSIGN ESPANDIARY TO THE ICES POST ALONE, OR CONTEMPLATES A DUAL ACCREDITATION.

10. SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WITH THIS, BUT I DO NEED YOUR HELP TO KEEP GOI-GUN RELATIONS ON AN EVEN KEEL.

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