SECRET 240320Z DEC 74 STAFF

CITE SAIGON

TO: TEHERAN INFO DIRECTOR.

RYBAT

EYES ONLY FROM VIETNAM

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM VIETNAM TO AMBASSADOR HELMS.

"AMBASSADOR MARTIN HAS ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM ON BASIS OF WHICH AMBASSADOR MARTIN HOPES THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO EXERT SOME DISCREET INFLUENCE IN ENSURING THAT THE IRANIAN DELEGATION IS STAFFED ADEQUATELY AT THE TOP LEVEL TO BEGIN WITH AND THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE STRENGTHENED IN THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF ITS DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION. AT PRESENT THE IRANIANS ARE A VERY POOR FOURTH WITH THE OTHER THREE NATIONS (HUNGARY, INDONESIA, POLAND) HAVING FIELD NEW ABLE SENIOR PERSONNEL. OUR INTEREST IS OF COURSE NOT SO MUCH IN THE INDIVIDUALS THE IRANIANS DECIDE TO SEND HERE BUT IN THE FACT THAT AT PRESENT, AND PARTICULARLY NOTICEABLE SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF SADRY, ONE TWO COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS SIMPLY OUTCLASS THE INDONESIANS WHILE THE IRANIANS AT THE MOMENT JUST DON'T COUNT. TEXT OF MEMORANDUM FOLLOWS:

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT FOR AMBASSADOR ASSAD SADRY

REF: TEHRAN 1028 (STATE)

1. THE DEPARTURE OF AMBASSADOR ASSAD SADRY HAS BROUGHT INTO SHARP FOCUS THE RELATIVE WEAKNESS OF THE IRANIAN DELEGATION AS COMPARED TO THE OTHER THREE DELEGATIONS ON THE ICCS. SADRY'S EXPERIENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND DRIVE ALONG WITH HIS ABILITY TO GET THE BEST OUT OF HIS SMALL, GENERALLY YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED STAFF, KEPT THIS WEAKNESS FROM BECOMING EVIDENT EARLIER. THE IRANIAN DELEGATION, BECAUSE OF SADRY'S ASTERY OF

HR70-14
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2008
CONFERENCE DIPLOMACY, LEADERSHIP AND FLEXIBILITY, EXERTED CONVII AND PRESSURE ON THE COMMUNIST MEMBERS OF ICCS TO CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT. IN SO DOING, EVIDENCE OF POLISH AND HUNGARIAN INSINCERITY WAS RECORDED AND EXPOSED IN THE PLENARY SESSIONS, CAUSING THEM EMBARRASSMENT. HOWEVER, HIS DEPARTURE HAS LEFT THE IRANIAN DELEGATION WITHOUT EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP.

2. THE REFERENCED CABLE INDICATES THAT THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING REPLACING SADRY WITH THEIR PRESENT AMBASSADOR TO BANGKOK WHO IS ALSO ACCREDITED TO SAIGON. IF HE WOULD BE POSTED TO SAIGON TO WORK FULL TIME ON THE ICCS THIS WOULD BE A FINE SOLUTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF HE WOULD RETAIN HIS PRESENT FUNCTIONS AND ALSO ASSUME THE ICCS ACCREDITATION, THIS WOULD LEAD TO PROBLEMS AS THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO ACCEPT ACCREDITATION FOR ONE AND THE SAME PERSON AS AMBASSADOR TO THEIR GOVERNMENT AND CONCURRENTLY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ICCS, IN WHICH POSITION HE WOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE PRG. THE EMBASSY INFORMALLY INDICATED THIS VIETNAMESE CONCERN TO THE IRANIAN DELEGATION; HOWEVER, MINISTER KHAZENI SENT WORD BACK THAT HE COULD NOT BRING THIS MATTER TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION BECAUSE IT WOULD BE PRESUMPTUOUS OF HIM TO COMMENT ON THE SUITABILITY OF ANOTHER OFFICER FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT.

3. THE PRESENT ACTING HEAD OF THE DELEGATION, MINISTER M. KHAZENI MOGGADAM, IS NOT CAPABLE OF HANDLING THIS ASSIGNMENT. HIS LACK OF EXPERIENCE AT CONFERENCE DIPLOMACY, RETIRING BUREAUCRATIC TEMPERAMENT AND INABILITY TO GET THE MOST OUT OF HIS STAFF RESULT IN VERY POOR PERFORMANCE. HE IS FURTHER HANDICAPPED BY HIS POOR ENGLISH WHICH IS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE ICCS AND WHICH THE OTHER AMBASSADORS ON THE COMMISSION ALL SPEAK. A FURTHER COMPLICATION LIMITING KHAZENI'S CAPABILITY TO UNITE AND LEAD THE IRANIAN DELEGATION STEMS FROM A FEUD WHICH DEVELOPED BETWEEN HIM AND
AMBASSADOR SADRY: THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED RUMORS AND ALLEGATIONS FROM BOTH SIDES ACCUSING THE OTHER PARTY OF PERSONAL CORRUPTION. THE TRUTH IN THESE ALLEGATIONS IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR OUR EMBASSY TO JUDGE, BUT AS A CONSEQUENCE THE DIPLOMATIC DELEGATION RECENTLY LOST SEVERAL STAFF MEMBERS, AND THE REMAINING TWO JUNIOR OFFICERS' ONLY INTEREST NOW IS TO STAY CLEAR OF THE FIGHT AND FIND OTHER ASSIGNMENTS.