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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT

(WHORM): SUBJECT FILE

Withdrawer

DLB 4/26/2010

File Folder

CO071 (IRAN) (003200-013999)

FOIA

S10-306

210-300

Box Number

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90070	CABLE	TEXT	OF BERN 00542		1	2/4/1981	B1
		R	5/18/2023	DEPT. OF STA	TE WAI	VER	
90071	CABLE	BERN,	OF FROM AMERIC RE: DETENTION (ENS IN IRAN		2	2/4/1981	B1
		R	5/18/2023	DEPT. OF STA	TE WAI	VER	

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

003965 - Mg 30 - CO 071

February 11, 1981

Dear Mr. Waxman:

The President has asked me to thank you for your January 30 letter expressing your concern over the fact that one of your constituents, Mr. Mohi Sobhani, is being detained in Iran.

Due to the urgency which you expressed in your correspondence, I have forwarded your letter to the National Security Council so that this matter can be given the careful attention which it requires.

Again, thank you for your interest in bringing Mr. Sobhani's plight to the President's attention.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

Max L. Priedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honerable Henry A. Waxman
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Co: w/inc to Janet Colson - NSC - for further handling

MLF: CMP: KIR: jm

SHOWING THE PLANTS



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 2, 1981

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RICHARD V. ALLEN THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Detention in Iran of Mohi Sobhani

On January 30, 1981, Congressman Henry A. Waxman wrote to the President concerning the incarceration in Iran of American citizen Mohi Sobhani. On February 11, Mr. Max L. Friedersdorf, Assistant to the President, responded on behalf of the President advising Congressman Waxman that the matter was being referred to the National Security council. Your referral of February 17 subsequently requested a draft reply for signature by the President.

The Department believes that no further response is necessary to Congressman Waxman for the following reasons:

- (a) Mr. Friedersdorf's letter to Congressman Waxman did not indicate that a further response would be forthcoming;
- (b) Under the provisions of the Privacy Act, Mr. Sobhani has not authorized the Department to release information regarding his situation;
- (c) Mr. Sobhani was released from detention on February 4 and is currently residing with his Iranian wife in Tehran;
- (d) Mr. Sobhani is currently maintaining a "low profile" in Tehran and has requested the Swiss Protection Power and U.S. Government to take no further actions on his behalf for the next few months;
- (e) The Department has kept Congressman Waxman's office informed by telephone of the latest developments in Mr. Sobhani's case including his recent release; and

LIMITED OFFICIAL HSE

- 2 -

(f) Any letter signed by the President or other high level administration official concerning Mr. Sobhani's case might inadvertently come to the attention of Iranian authorities and thus complicate or jeopardize his already delicate situation.

L. Paul Bremer, III Executive Secretary

. ID 8100492 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

PAGE DO1

REFERRAL

DATE: 17 FEB 81

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE SECRETARIAT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 8104749

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: PRES

FROM: WAXMAN, HENRY A

DATE: 30 JAN 81

KEYWORDS: IRAN

TERRORISM SOBHANI, MOHI

CO

SUBJ: DETENTION OF SOBHANI IN IRAN

REQUIRED ACTION: DRAFT REPLY FOR PRES SIG

DUEDATE: 24 FEB 81

COMMENTS:

Handd I. Wa FOR NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

FOR INFO

F O HW C

RECEIVED 16 FEB 81 13

TO

PRES

FROM WAXMAN, HENRY A DOCDATE 30 JAN 81

KEYWORDS: IRAN

TERRORISM

SOBHANI, MOHI

CO

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF SOBHANI IN IRAN

ACTION: PREPARE REPLY FOR ALLEN SIG DUE: 18 FEB 81 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

KEMP

ODOM

COMMENTS INCOMING & WH INTERIM REPLY ATTACHED

NSCIFID (H/) REF# LOG

Dear Mr. Waxman:

Thankxyouxfoxxyourx

The President has asked me to thank you for your January 30 letter expressing your concern over the fact that one of your constituents, Mr. Mohi Sobhani, is being detained in Iran.

Due to the urgency which you expressed in your correspondence,

I have forwarded your letter to the National Security Council
so that the matter can be given the careful attention which it
requires.

Again, thank you for your interest in bringing Mr. Sobhani's plight to myxxkkem the President's attention.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf Assistant to the President

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: w/inc to Janet Colson - NSC - for further handling

MLF: CMP: KIR:

2444 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-3976

DISTRICT OFFICE: .

8425 WEST 3D STREET
SUITE 400
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90048
(213) 651-1040

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

HENRY A. WAXMAN 24TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

BURT MARGOLIN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

COMMITTEES:

INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN

COMMERCE
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON

HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

003965

CONGRESSION AL LIAISON

FEB 2 1981

January 30, 1981

President Ronald Reagan The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I was gratified by your expression of concern, on the day of national thanksgiving for the safe return of our 53 fellow citizens in Iran, for the three Americans who remain in captivity in that country.

One of these citizens is from my district. His name is Mohi Sobhani. He is 44 years old, is married to an Iranian, and lives and has family in Los Angeles. He is a Baha'i and is probably being held for that reason alone. He has been accused of being associated with the Shah's regime and of being an American agent.

I made a statement on the House floor regarding Mr. Sobhani on January 29. What I did not mention, in order to avoid undue public concern, was a report from his family in Tehran, relayed by his sister in Los Angeles, that he has been sentenced to death by the revolutionary authorities.

I informed the State Department of this development. Mr. Barry Semakis of the Iran Working Group was quite alarmed. I understood that a cable has been sent to the Swiss Embassy in Tehran asking them to ascertain Mr. Sobhani's precise status.

I am deeply concerned over the possibility that Mr. Sobhani might be executed. I respectfully urge your attention to his plight in order to remove this threat to his life. I stand ready to assist you in any way possible.

With appreciation for your attention and concern, I am

Sincerely.

HENKY A. WAXMAN Member of Congress

HAW: bwd

offer because the release was again predicated on springing the Americans by the Iranians saying:

OK, we are going to release these downtrodden Americans who are victims of discrimination in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to straighten that point out and say that I had confirmation last night in a nationwide documented TV show of these efforts on the part of the Iranians.

PROPOSAL FOR FOREIGN AID CUTBACK

(Mr. SIMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, let me say to my colleagues in the House that I picked up this morning's Washington Post and read on the front page a story that is hairraising and is incredibly shortsighted. The heading is "Huge Cutback Proposed in Foreign Aid.

This OMB document, which I hope, for the sake of this Nation and other nations, will not become policy, calls for, among two things-and let me quote—a reduction in aid which "would mainly affect the poorer countries of Africa and the Asian subconti-

I hope that we do not want to adopt

such a policy.

Second, it says that aid-and I quote again-"could be concentrated on a small number of countries of key importance to the United States, perhaps at the loss of influence in countries of lesser importance."

Now, what are countries of lesser importance? Well, a couple of years ago we might have said Afghanistan; a few years prior to that we would have said Vietnam. There is no such thing as a country of lesser importance.

The security viewpoint of the United States cannot be solely and simply that we build submarines and missiles and things like that. It has to be a much larger concept than that.

Let me just close by citing one instance. What is the chance, I ask my colleagues, that the Soviets will send their tanks through central Europe? Well, it is a fraction of 1 percent, but we cannot take a chance on it and so we devote approximately one-fourth of our defense budget to that fraction of 1 percent possibility.

But what is the chance that the Soviets will take advantage of hunger, desperation, and chaos in a developing nation? The chance, let me say to my friends, is 99 percent, and we are talking about cutting back in that area.

Mr. Speaker, I just think that it is an incredible policy if it is followed, and I hope the policy will be reversed.

ANOTHER AMERICAN REMAINS HOSTAGE IN IRAN

(Mr. WAXMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

remarks.)

Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. Speaker, on this day of national thanksgiving for the safe return of our 53 fellow citizens from Iran, I must bring to the attention of the Nation the continued captivity in Tehran of Mohi Sobhani, a naturalized American citizen.

Mr. Sobhani was arrested at the Tehran airport last September 6, as he and his family were about to leave the country for the United States. The revolutionary authorities gave no reason at that time for his detention.

But Mr. Sobhani is a Baha'i-a member of a religious faith that has been marked for persecution by the Ayatollah Khomeini. Already seven Bahais have been executed during the

course of the revolution.

The arrest of Mr. Sobhani was broadcast on Iranian television and radio. People were invited to inform the authorities of any allegations against him. Iranians came and denounced him as a Baha'i. Others accused him, since he is a naturalized American citizen, of being an Ameri-"great can agent-a spy for the Satan."

Mohi Sobhani has never had a trial. He has no means to defend himself or prove his innocence. His only crime appears to be that he is a member of a

religious minority.

Mr. Sobhani's sister, brother, and son live in Los Angeles as did Mr. Sobhani. They are terribly afraid for his life. After my own inquiries on his behalf. I have every reason to believe Mr. Sobhani is in the gravest personal

I have appealed to the State Department, and through them to the Swiss Embassy, which represents our interests in Iran, to ascertain the precise status of Mr. Sobhani, and to appeal

for his freedom.

Mohi Sobhani is an American citizen. In this moment of rejoicing over the freedom for the 53, we must not forget the fate of an American who remains in captivity. Mr. Sobhani must be freed as well. I appeal to all to assist him.

INTRODUCTION OF GOVERN-MENT CONTRACTORS' PROD-UCT LIABILITY ACT OF 1981

(Mr. McCLORY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McCLORY. Mr. Speaker, in 1977 the Supreme Court issued its decision in the case of Stencel Aero Engineering Company v. United States, 431 U.S. 666. The rationale espoused by the Court in that case underlines the unfair, counterproductive, and inequitable situation faced by Government contractors. The Stencel case stands for the principle that a Government contractor cannot obtain indemnification from the Federal Government, when the contractor is held liable for

men would not have taken up that minute and to revise and extend his money damages to a service man for injuries caused by a defective design. This is so even if the Federal Government is responsible for and mandates the design of the defective product in

> The problems presented by federally mandated design specifications have also recently received considerable press attention in connection with the so-called flxible bus. Both the Grumman Corp. and General Motors manufactured these buses according to the exact requirements of the Department of Transportation's White Book, DOT, through its Urban Mass Transportation Administration, imposed this new bus design on both the manufacturers and their municipal customers as a prerequisite for receiving urban mass transit funds. The DOT design specifications have been an admitted failure, with the resulting buses being both unsafe and uncomfortable. Grumman recently notified 27 municipalities about a newly discovered problem that could cause drivers to lose control of the buses. But while the design defects are directly the fault of Federal bureaucrats, Grumman would solely be liable for any resulting injuries or

Today, I am introducing legislationthe "Government Contractors' Product Liability Act of 1981"-which aims at rectifying this situation. Under the terms of this measure, a manufactur-er-supplier could seek indemnification from the Federal Government for losses incurred unless the court determines that the contractor was guilty of willful negligence or that the injury or loss was the result of the primary and active negligence of the contrac-

The legal vulnerability in which a private contractor finds himself, in part, can be traced to the application of the principle of sovereign immunity; that is, the Government is immune from suit absent its own consent. But, as we all know, the sovereign immunity doctrine has been significantly modified over the years. For example, Congress has enacted legislation removing the defense of sovereign immunity in contract claims asserted directly against the United States (28 U.S.C. 1491). The theory being that when the United States enters into the marketplace, it sheds somewhat the cloak of immunity and is treated legally as a private person.

In fact, Congress has already partially espoused the principle of Government contractor indemnification. Two statutes currently exist under which indemnification may be provided on defense contracts involving unusually hazardous risks (10 U.S.C. 2354; 50 U.S.C. 1431-5). But, unfortunately, the term "unusually hazardous" has been very narrowly construed by the agencies implementing these laws-it has been applied principally to explosives, nuclear materials, and rocket fuels. There are numerous products that inMEMORANDUM CONFIDENTIAL

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 4, 1981

The President has seen

0202

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DECLASSIFIED

Authority NBL/State Waivers

NAPA DATE 1/8/2023

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

RICHARD ALLEN

SUBJECT:

INFORMATION

Mrs. Cynthia Dwyer's Trial

It appears that this is a show trial and the estimates are that she will be released and expelled from Iran. Following is the text of the reference cable.

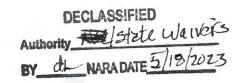
Attachments

TAB A - Bern 542 TAB B - Bern 554

CONFIDENTIAL

N50*8100202

CONFIDENTIAL



February 4, 1981

2

Text of Bern 00542

The Swiss Embassy in Tehran reports that Mohi Sobhani has been released from prison, and is at home with his wife. Details to follow.

The chief of the Foreign Interests Section at the MFA phoned the embassy at 1515 Bern time to read a telegram just received from SPP Tehran: An Interests Section employee saw Mohi Sobhani free on the street in Tehran this morning (Feb. 4); Mrs. Sobhani later phoned SPP to report the "wonderful news", and to say that she would not visit SPP today as had been planned because of this happy situation. The SPP telegram says that details will follow as soon as available.

Vine

FEBRUARY 4, 1981

CABLE FROM AMERICAN EMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF AMERICAN CITIZEN IN IRAN

Authority State Warrer

BY dh NARADATE 5/18/2023

THE SWISS EMBASSY IN TEHRAN HAS PROVIDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
AGAIN BY TELEPHONE TO THE MINISTRY IN BERN, ON THE TRIAL OF
MRS. DWYER. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SPP, RELAYED TO US BY
THE FOREIGN INTERESTS SECTION BY PHONE, FOLLOWS.

UNEXPECTEDLY, THE DEFINITIVE TRIAL OF MRS. DWYER TOOK PLACE TODAY (FEB. 4). THERE WERE MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS, AND THE TRIAL WAS COMPLETED AT 5:00 P.M. IRAN TIME. SPP EXPECTED JUDGMENT TO BE PRONOUNCED SATURDAY OR SUNDAY. THE TRIAL WAS ATTENDED BY SPP CHIEF SCHMIDT AND THREE FSN EMPLOYEES. MR. SCHMIDT WAS ALLOWED TO SPEAK WITH MRS. DWYER (WHO HAD NO DEFENSE ATTORNEY) DURING THE TRIAL.

MR. SCHMIDT'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE "WHOLE THING WAS A SHOW"
AND THAT THE RESULT HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED. HE BELIEVES THAT
IT WILL "BE POSITIVE FOR MRS. DWYER." AND SEES THE RELEASE OF
MOHI SOBHANI (BERN 542) AS A "GOOD OMEN". SCHMIDT SAID THAT
MRS. DWYER WAS VERY NERVOUS AT THE TRIAL, BUT APPEARED FIT.
TWO IRANIAN JOURNALISTS ATTENDED THE TRIAL, AND THE SWISS
EXPECT TO RECEIVE PRESS ENQUIRIES. THEY PROPOSE TO USE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS IN REPLY:

- THE TRIAL OF MRS. DWYER TOOK PLACE TODAY, FEBRUARY 4
- A SWISS EMBASSY OFFICER WAS PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE TRIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

1

CONFIDENTIAL

- THE JUDGMENT IN THE CASE IS EXPECTED NEXT MONDAY
- THIS APPEARS TO BE AN EFFORT BY SWISS TO ANTICIPATE
 SOME DELAY IN LEARNING THE RESULT
- MRS. DWYER SEEMS TO BE WELL.

MFA EXPECTS A FULL TELEGRAPHIC REPORT FROM TEHRAN TOMORROW WHICH WE WILL, OF COURSE, RELAY TO DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS RECEIVED.

NSC/S PROFILE

CONFIDENTIAL

ID 8100202

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURED

RECEIVED 05 FEB 81 16

TO ' PRES FROM ALLEN

DOCDATE 04 FEB 81

CEVW	ORDS:	TRAN

DWYER, CYNTHIA

SOBHANI, MOHI

SUBJECT: CYNTHIA DWYER TRIAL

ACTION: NOTED BY PRES

DUE:

STATUS C FILES (WH)

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

SICK

COMMENTS

REF# LOG NSCIFID (H/H) ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

DISPATCH W/ATTCH FILE (C)

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ID# 009623

C0071

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

□ O · OUTGOING				
□ H - INTERNAL				
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Comments:				
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Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

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n - 4 - Dutch		H - Handcarried L - Letter	1.15
n - 5 - Ron Reagan n - 6 - Ronald		M- Mailgram	a Language of
n - 7 - Ronnie		O - Memo	
Cl n . First I advis Correspondence		P - Photo R - Report	
CLn - First Lady's Correspondence n - 1 - Nancy Reagan	THE ROLL OF THE PARTY OF	S - Sealed	
n - 2 - Nancy		T - Telegram V - Telephone	
n - 3 -		X - Miscellaneous	
CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Corresp		Y - Study	
n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reaga			
n - 2 - Ron - Nancy			

Dear Mr. Mattox:

This is in further response to your March letter to the President on behalf of Mr. Jack H. Hittson soncerning Iranian students in the United States.

The Administration would like to make it clear that no agency of the U.S. Government has assumed the expenses of these students, nor does a special program of financial assistance for them as a group exist. Each Iranian on a student visa in the United States is responsible for his or her own funding. When Iranian assets were frozen, the Department of the Treasury licensed the transfer of funds from Iran to meet the expenses of Iranian students in this country.

I hope this information will be helpful in responding to Mr. Hittson. Iffhe would like more information, he may wish to contact the U.S. International Communication Agency at 1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20547. That agency is responsible for international educational exchanges and can answer any specific questions Mr. Hittson might have.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf Assistant to the President

The Bonorable Jim Mattox House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

MLF: NSC: CMP: asr

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

CORRESPONDENCE REFERRAL

May 1, 1981

TO:

MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF

FROM:

ALLEN J. LENZ

The N%C staff has reviewed and approved the attached draft reply:

as is

as amended

Staff initial

Attachments: Incoming and draft reply.

.1573 · add on

UNCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION)

s/s #	81096	85	
DATE	April	30,	1981

DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. Richard V. Allen
National Security Council

REFERE	ENCE:			
	TO: Pr	esident Reagan	FROM: Jim Mattox	
	DATE:	04 MAR 81	SUBJECT: Iran	
	WHITE	HOUSE REFERRAL DATED:	26 MAR 81	NSC #
		THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS S TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ST		
ACTION	TAKE	<u>.</u>		
	<u>X</u>	A draft reply is attach	ned	
		A draft reply will be i	forwarded	
	-	A translation is attach	ned	
		An information copy of	a direct reply is a	ttached
		We believe no response cited below	is necessary for th	ne reason
		Other		
REMARK	·S:			

L. Paul Bremer, III for Executive Secretary for

UNCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION)

Dear Mr. Mattox:

The President has asked me to thank you for your March 4 correspondence enclosing a letter from your constituent, Dr. Jack H. Hittson.

In Dr. Hittson's letter he expressed his grave concern over the status of many Iranian students still studying in our country. Please be assured that I have brought his letter to the attention of the appropriate White House advisers for their careful attention.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf Assistant to the President

The Honorable Jim Mattox House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

MLF: CMP: KIR: kir

cc: w/inc to Janet Colson - NSC - for DRAFT reply (for Charlie Ponticell.

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

3/28

FOR STAFFING

Needs draft response which Mr. Friedersdorf can use if he decides to make more substantive reply at a later date.

Please return to my attention. Thanks.

Janet Colson

ght Just by !!

RECEIVED

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CY TO DEAVER		SHOW CC	
CY TO BRADY		SHOW CC	

SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear Mr. Mattox:

Thank you for your letter of March 4 on behalf of Mr. Jack H. Hittson concerning Iranian students in the United States.

I would like to make it clear that no agency of the U.S. Government has assumed the expenses of these students, nor does a special program of financial assistance for them as a group exist. Each Iranian on a student visa in the United States is responsible for his or her own funding. When Iranian assests were frozen, the Department of the Treasury licensed the transfer of funds from Iran to meet the expenses of Iranian students in this country.

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Sincerely,

The Honorable,
Jim Mattox,
House of Representatives.

my

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 4, 1981

JIM MATTOX 5TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

009623

ma

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is a letter from one of my constituents calling for presidential action with regard to Iranian students in the United States.

I have informed Dr. Hittson that a copy of his letter is being forwarded to you for comment.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Jim Mattox

JM:ck enclosure

MASHINGTON OFFICE: 1127 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515 (202) 225-2231

DISTRICT OFFICE: 5200 EAST GRAND AVENUE, SUITE 100. DALLAS, TEXAS 75223 (214) 767-2864

JAN 26 1981

January 22, 1981

Jim Mattox U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Sir:

The universal will of the American people calls for prompt and continuous action against the enemy government of Iran.

All alien citizens of that enemy nation must be expelled from our country; This in spite of past agreements or fears about the future of Persian Gulf oil.

All federal funds for education and assistance to Tranian citizens must be stopped; by Presidential order if necessary.

Our national interest in Persian Gulf oil is secondary to national self-respect - and don't forget it!!

Very sincerely yours,

Jack H. Hittson

ID 8101573

RECEIVED 26 MAR 81 11

TO PRES

FROM MATTOX, JIM DOCDATE 04 MAR 81

FRIEDERSDORF, M

19 MAR 81

KEYWORDS: IRAN

CO

HITTSON, JACK H

SUBJECT: REQUEST PRESIDENTIAL ACTION RE IRANIAN STUDENTS IN US

ACTION: DRAFT REPLY FOR WH SIG DUE: 07 APR 81 STATUS D FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

KEMP

COMMENTS

REF#

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NSCIFID (H/)

ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

COPIES TO DUE /

ID 8101573

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

REFERRAL

PAGE DO1

DATE: 26 MAR 81

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE SECRETARIAT

8109685

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: PRES

FROM: MATTOX, JIM

DATE: 04 MAR 81

KEYWORDS: IRAN

CO

HITTSON, JACK H

SUBJ:

REQUIRED ACTION: DRAFT REPLY FOR WH SIG

DUEDATE: 26 MAR 81

OR ALLEN J LENZ

STAFF DIRECTOR

FOR INFO

NSC SECRETARIAT

State of Comment:

F O HW C

JEAN PALAGINO c/o Situation Room

Received in 5/5-1 3/27 at 9:55 Am. Ch

Rg

March 3, 1981

MG 4000 2007/ F0003-02

Dear Tom:

Thank you for the generous support you expressed in your letter.

I encourage you to watch for news on how policy develops in those creas of special interest to you. In this way, you will best learn answers to the many questions you raised about the direction of the new Administration.

Your views are a welcome message that you care about the welfare of America. I hope that you will always involve yourselves as concerned citizens dedicated to the progress of our country.

With my best wishes always,

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN A

Y

Mr. Tom Welsh 266 South Del-loff Youngstown, Ohio 44515

Enclosure: Inaugural Address

RR/AVH/gjc

810305

se aiding Isan in the future

and

2665. DeHoff

Youngstown OHIO, 445/5

January 29, 1981

THE White House

MASHINGTON D.C. 20500

Dr Mr President:

I Am A Student At Austintown Fitch
High school, And I was wondering now that we
got are hostages back if we will Aid IRAmians

in The future.

from The IRANIANS OF will we make due with what we have, AND what our friends will sell us.

Sincerly, TIM WEISH

ID	#_	010963	

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET 00011

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☐ H - INTERNAL				_
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C - Comments D - Draft Response	R - Direct Reply v S - For Signature	v/Copy	B - Non-Special Referral	S - Suspended
F - Fact Sheet	X - Interim Reply		FOR OUTGOING CORRESP	
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			Completion Date = Da	e of Outgoing
Comments:				
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Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

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n - 6 - Ronald		M- Mailgram O- Memo	
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THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

Date 5/15/8/	
Suspense Date:	
MEMORANDUM FOR: Drawner (Sol	land
FROM: RICHARD A. HAUS:	ER
ACTION	
Approved	
Please handle	
For your information	
For your recommendati	on .
For the files	
Please see me	
Please prepare respon	
Please forward: to /	Rete
Please forward: To A	FOR: Dick Hauser This letter was like prepared "For Fred Fielding's Signature". If you don't want it sent out from your office, let Max Fredesdoof's office Know, Thanks,

FROM: Leslie M. Sorg
Director of Agency Liaison

Extension 7496

Room 33

DATE:	7/28	
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FOR: Dick Hauser

According to White House Central Files, Senator Biden has never been responded to. (WH I.D.#010963)

Attached is a memo and a draft for Joseph Biden which was sent directly to your office in April from the Department of Justice. Call if you have any questions.

Thanks.

FROM: Leslie M. Sorg

Director of Agency Liaison

Room 33

Extension 7486

Subject

Date

Referral of White House Correspondence to the Department of Justice

2 4 APR 1981

To

From

Restriction,

Richard A. Houser
Deputy Counsel to the
President

Larry L. Simms
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel

I am taking the time to go into some detail on the enclosed material because it may represent a continuing problem which I think we need to deal with quickly and resolve.

The two referrals enclosed, which came to this Department from the Director of Agency Liaison, Leslie Sorg, are unique -- at least in my experience -- because they request the Department of Justice to prepare responses for the signature of officials in the White House. In my experience, so-called "White House Referrals" have been made only when a determination was made in the White House that the Department of Justice should itself send a response to the piece of incoming correspondence. I have no idea whether the change represented by these two referrals is one which has been thought out or which was simply accidental. I see a number of problems, however.

First, no matter what the subject matter, neither this Office nor other persons in the Department of Justice are in a particularly good position to draft correspondence for the signature of officials in the White House because we will be generally unfamiliar with both their style of responding to such inquiries and do not have ready access to them to determine how they might desire to answer a particular inquiry. Second, the concept of drafting a reply for the signature of an official usually suggests that the reply be put into final form and transmitted to the signing official for signature. However, I am unaware that any office in the Department of Justice maintains letterhead appropriate for the preparation of letters for signature by officials at the White House. Third, I doubt that the extra delays or paperwork involved in preparation of responses outside the White House to be signed by officials within the Whie House could be justified on efficiency grounds.

It may well be that, as a matter of policy, responsible officials in the White House will decide that this kind of referral is the best way to do things. If that has either been decided or is likely to be decided in that fashion, I think that Stan Morris, who works for Ed Schmults, would like to have some input even at this late date.

I have attached to each of the packages of materials received from the White House suggested draft responses for your possible use. My own judgment is that the referral from Senator Biden should have simply been sent to the Department of Justice or the Department of State for quick response by either of those Departments. Clearly, events outstripped the referral from the White House (since the President decided to go ahead with the Iranian agreement before the referral was even sent from Senator Biden). The letter to Ed Meese strikes me as one for which your office would have had a good feel. Of course, anytime we can provide substantive input to these kind of inquiries over the telephone to your people, we are more than happy to do so. I have already had one telephone conversation with your paralegal, Meg Shields, about a letter not that different from the one referred over inolving Ed Meese. Another concern is that most of these inquiries deserve a quick response, and I am afraid the referrals are going to inevitably add substantial time to the process.

These are mostly off-the-cuff remarks, and I would like to chat with you over the telephone if you have any problems with the above. If not, I think you could probably go ahead and find out how much of a general problem we have by discussing it with Leslie Sorg.

Enclosures

cc: Stanley E. Morris
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Department of Justice

DRAFT

Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr. United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Biden:

This responds to your letter of March 3, 1981 to Mr. Friedersdorf which forwarded to Mr. Friedersdorf a letter from one of your constituents, Mr. Rodney Sweet, Esquire, of Seaford, Delaware. In his letter to you dated February 9, 1981, Mr. Sweet indicated that he was representing a former hostage and that he desired to discuss with Administration officials "the legality of the agreement" with Iran which led to the release of the hostages, including his client, and suggested that the agreement "should be repudiated."

Subsequent to February 9, 1981, as you are aware, President Reagan, based on advice from the Attorney General, concluded that the agreement with Iran was indeed legal as a matter of our domestic law and that, as a policy matter, the agreement should be implemented. During the review of the agreement with Iran conducted by this Administration, the views of those affected by the agreement were sought and the situation regarding the hostages themselves was carefully reviewed. Also since that time, we understand that a lawsuit on Mr. Persinger's behalf has indeed been filed by his attorneys here in the District of Columbia. The Department of Justice expects to take action

regarding that suit consistent with full implementation of the agreement with Iran.

We regret very much the time it has taken to respond to your inquiry on behalf of your constituent, but would again assure you that the views of all persons affected by implementation of the agreement were sought very carefully considered during the Administration's view of it.

Sincerely,

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE REFERRAL

APRIL 20, 1981

TO: DEPARIMENT OF JUSTICE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF FRED FIELDING

REMARKS: PLEASE FURNISH DRAFT ASAP

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID:

010963

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MARCH 3, 1981

TO:

MAX FRIEDERSDORF

FROM:

THE HONORABLE JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

UNITED STATES SENATE WASHINGTON DC 20510

SUBJECT: ENDORSES RODNEY DON SWEET'S REQUEST ON BEHALF

OF GREGORY PERSINGER THAT ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS MEET WITH HIM AN DANIEL J. RYAN, PETER J. NEESON, AND MARK H. TOUHEY TO DISCUSS THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE

IRANIAN GOVERNMENT

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN BASIC CORRESPONDENCE, CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO: AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 33, THE WHITE HOUSE

> BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT: LESLIE SORG . DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED

APR 2 1 1981

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REFERRAL UNIT

RPS/JMD-2

Dear Senator Biden:

Thank you for your March 3 letter enclosing correspondence from Mr. Rodney Don Sweet, who is one of the four attorneys representing former hostage Gregory Persinger. In your letter you request that a meeting be arganged between Mr. Hersinger's attorneys and the appropriate Administration officials to discuss the agreements with Iran which led to the release of the hostages.

Please be assured that I have directed this matter to the immediate attention of the appropriate White House office for further consideration.

Again, thank you for your interest in writing and whenever I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf Assistant to the President

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr. United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

MLF: CMP: mdb

cc: w/inc to Fred Fielding (General Counsel) for further action

DRAFT

Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr. United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Biden:

This responds to your letter of March 3, 1981 to Mr. Friedersdorf which forwarded to Mr. Friedersdorf a letter from one of your constituents, Mr. Rodney Sweet, Esquire, of Seaford, Delaware. In his letter to you dated February 9, 1981, Mr. Sweet indicated that he was representing a former hostage and that he desired to discuss with Administration officials "the legality of the agreement" with Iran which led to the release of the hostages, including his client, and suggested that the agreement "should be repudiated."

Subsequent to February 9, 1981, as you are aware, President Reagan, based on advice from the Attorney General, concluded that the agreement with Iran was indeed legal as a matter of our domestic law and that, as a policy matter, the agreement should be implemented. During the review of the agreement with Iran conducted by this Administration, the views of those affected by the agreement were sought and the situation regarding the hostages themselves was carefully reviewed. Also since that time, we understand that a lawsuit on Mr. Persinger's behalf has indeed been filed by his attorneys here in the District of Columbia. The Department of Justice expects to take action

DRAFT

regarding that suit consistent with full implementation of the agreement with Iran.

We regret very much the time it has taken to respond to your inquiry on behalf of your constituent, but would again assure you that the views of all persons affected by implementation of the agreement were sought very carefully considered during the Administration's view of it.

Sincerely,

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

010963

March 3, 1981

Mit

Mr. Max Friedersdorf Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs The White House Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Friedersdorf:

Attorneys representing former hostage Gregory Persinger have asked my assistance in trying to arrange a meeting between them and appropriate Administration officials to discuss the agreements with Iran which led to the release of the hostages. I would appreciate your help in setting up such a meeting.

The attorneys include Rodney Don Sweet of Seaford, Delaware and three others, who are named in the attached copy of the letter sent to me.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Biden, Jr. United States Senator

Enclosure

cc: Rodney Don Sweet

P.O. Box 919

511 Bridgeville Rd. (Alt. 13) Seaford, DE 19973

(302) 629-3016

February 9, 1981

Senator Joseph Bidden U. S. Court House 844 King Street Wilmington, Delaware

RE: Gregory Persinger

Dear Senator Bidden:

I stopped in your Wilmington office Friday afternoon and left a message that we would appreciate it if you could help arrange a meeting with President Regan's Administration in order to discuss the agreement that President Carter made with the Iranian Government. We feel that the legality of the agreement is questionable and that it violated Gregory Persinger's constitutional rights and should be repudiated. To this end, we would appreciate your help.

Besides myself there would be at least three (3) other attorneys who would like to be heard. They are Daniel J. Ryan, Esquire and Peter J. Neeson, Esquire of the firm of LaBrom and Doak of 700 I.V.B. Building, 1700 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA. 19103 and Mark H. Tuohey, III, Esquire of Nixon, Hargrave, Devans and Doyle of 1666 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006.

Your help would be appreciated.

Respectfully yours

RODNEY DON SWEET, ESQUIRE

RDS/dr

cc: Daniel Ryan Peter Neeson Mark Tuohey

Gregory Persinger

MEMORANDUM

747 add-on 013326

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F0001 FG011 FG006-12 F0004-03

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

March 2, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT GARRICK

FROM:

RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT:

Implementation of Iranian Agreements

I understand that your office is interested in the status of the implementation of the Iran Agreements. Attached for your information is a copy of a memorandum prepared by my staff concerning this subject.

Attachment

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

February 25, 1981

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RICHARD V. ALLEN

FROM:

GARY SICK

SUBJECT:

Iran Agreements

The implementation of the Iran agreements is beginning this week.

Mr. Stoessel, the new Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, appears today before the HFAC for testimony on the agreements and the Administration's plans on defending against future terrorist attacks. He will officially outline the nature of the implementation which is now underway.

Justice will probably go into court this week to argue for the lifting of attachments against remaining Iranian assets, in order for the assets to be transferred to escrow as required. Regulations are being prepared by Treasury concerning other technical aspects, and they will probably be published this week. Talks are underway with the Algerians about lump sum settlement of claims less than \$250,000. State is considering names for the Arbitral Commission.

In short, implementation of all aspects of the agreements is now in full swing. I strongly recommend that all queries about implementation be referred to State or to the appropriate agency, since these are technical, not policy, matters.

There was a small story on the agreements in the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> today, and there will no doubt be other stories in the next few days as implementation gets underway and as Stoessel's testimony gets reported.

ID 8100747

RECEIVED 25 FEB 81 18

TO

ALLEN

FROM SICK

DOCDATE 25 FEB 81

013326

KEYWORDS: IRAN

SUBJECT: IRAN AGREEMENTS

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION DUE: STATUS IX FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

ALLEN

COMMENTS

NSCIFID (J/) REF# LOG

ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Feb. 25, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD V. ALLEN

FROM:

JANET COLSON

SUBJECT:

Implementation of Iranian

Agreements

Bob Garrick's office is interested in the status of the implementation of the Iran Agreements, hence Gary's memo. Shall I prepare a forwarding memo for you to send to Garrick?

_	. /						
Yes_	V	No,	I'11	pen	him	a	note

I have provided a copy for Brady's read file.

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8100999

RECEIVED 06 MAR 81 14

TO

PRES

FROM SARRESHTEHDARY, F DOCDATE 16 JAN 81

BREMER

26 FEB 81

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MG , 3500

C0071 FG006-12

KEYWORDS: IRAN

SUBJECT: CONGRATULATORY LTR FM FORMER IRANIAN OFFICIAL

ACTION: FARRAR SGD MEMO TO HIGGINS DUE:

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FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

KEMP

COMMENTS

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

March 6, 1981

FOR:

ANNE HIGGINS

FROM:

CAROLE FARRAR

Attached is reply to former Iranian official living in US, which has been approved by Richard Allen and is recommended for you to sign. Please give us a copy of outgoing.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL March 3, 1981

FOR: Janet Colson

FROM: Carole Farrar

Janet:

Attached for clearance is proposed reply to purported former Iranian official prepared by State and cleared by Kemp. Anne Higgins (Director of Correspondence and who would sign public mail on behalf of President) would be the logical person to sign the reply. Unless other handling is preferred, would forward to her.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 26, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RICHARD V. ALLEN THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Congratulatory Letter from Former Iranian

Official

Included in Mr. Freydoon Sarreshtehdary's congratulatory letter is his claim to having assisted President Reagan when he was on a visit to Iran. We are told the President stopped in Iran in April 1978 as part of a "Round the World" trip.

While we have no way of checking the validity of the points in Mr. Sarreshtehdary's letter, we believe the attached short note acknowledging receipt of his letter and signed by an official at the White House would be in order.

L. Paul Bremer, III Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Draft reply.

Dear Mr. Sarreshtehdary:

President Reagan has asked me to thank you for your kind congratulatory letter of January 16, 1981.

It is always pleasant to hear from Iranians whose friendship for the United States reflects the long tradition of good will between the American and Iranian people.

Sincerely,

Mr. Freydoon Sarreshtehdary
Zolman International, Inc.,
600 Montgomery Street (45th Floor),
San Francisco, California

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

8194304

Date:

February 10, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR:

STATE SECRETARIAT

DOCUMENT DESC	CRIPTION:	
To:		
From:		
Date:		
Subject:		
ACTION REQUES	STED:	
	Draft reply for:	Pres signature White House Staff Other
	Direct reply Dispatch Recommendations/Comments	Furnish info copy
XXXXXXXX	Appropriate handling Information (FYI: ONLY) Translation Other	
DUE DATE:		

FOR STAFF SECRETARY

Received in 5/5-t 2/11 at 10:10 A.M. (29)

600 Montgomery Street 45th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111 January 16, 1981

President of the United States 10960 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90024

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully congratulate you again for your victory. As I have always expressed, prior to your election and after, to my American friends and others, that a strong country, such as the United States must have a strong leader like Mr. Reagan. Not only myself, but all the Iranians who love their country are overwhelmed with emotion and hope for your Presidency.

I had the pleasure and honor as Chief of Imperial Protocol and a Civil Aide of His Imperial Majesty, Shah of Iran, to be chosen as your host and in charge of your security during your stay in Iran. Dr. Amir Aslan Afshar, my good friend and the Master of Ceremony of His Majesty, Shah of Iran, is a man with a high character and understanding, who always spoke of you as an exceptionally strong and intelligent individual. When I had the pleasure of meeting you and other honorable delegates from the United States, I recognized that your personality shines brighter and your sense of authority distinguishable. My respect and affection for you, as well as that of my other collegues, like Mr. Malekshah Zafar, is a continuation and a wish that came true.

Through my 26 years of experience, of which I spent 20 years in the Imperial Guard, with the responsibility as Chief of Security for his Majesty and his family and later was promoted as a Head of Irans Official Imperial Protocol. I was in charge of the security of five United States Presidents and I had an excellant relationship with all American Ambassadors and their respective collegues in Iran.

Shortly after the American Hostages were taken unjustifiably and inhumanely, I was residing in London and I wrote a letter to the United States Ambassador in London and gave him my complete support and cooperation to any extent voluntarily. Unfortunately, I did not get any response. I am confident, with a heart filled with emotion and enthusiasm, that finally destiny has brought an open minded leader whom with his broad vision representing the greatest nation on earth and compassion for all nations around the world. Hence, I would like to give my complete support and cooperation now as an individual residing in the United States. I hope and pray that under your leadership a righteous solution will be found. I would like to express repeatedly I am willing to cooperate with the sincerest and deepest devotion to implement your future victories for a strong America.

My family and I joyfully congratulate Mrs. Reagan as the First Lady of the United States of America.

I can be contacted at the address given below.

Zolman International, Inc. 600 Montgomery St. 45th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
Tele: (415) 421-5340
Tlx: 34-0851

Respectfully,

Freydoon Sarreshtehdary

F. Sarreshteholory