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**Folder**: IRAN (03/06/1981-04/12/1981)

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## **Ronald Reagan Library**

Collection Name EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY FILE

Withdrawer

SMF

7/1/2008

File Folder

IRAN (03/06/1981-04/12/1981)

**FOIA** 

M2008-113

**Box Number** 

36

**FELIPPONE** 

ID	Doc Type	Docu	ıment Description		No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
54589	MEMO	KEM	P TO ALLEN		1	3/13/1981	B1
		R	6/16/2010	M113/1			
54590	MEMO		EN TO SECRETARY MISSION	OF STATE RE	1	ND	B1
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54591	МЕМО	COM	EN TO THE PRESID MISSION (DUPLIC ATIONS)	DENT RE ATE OF 54577, WITH	1	1/29/1981	B1
		D	6/16/2010	M113/1			
54592	MEMO	DUPI	LICATE OF 54578		2	1/28/1981	B1
		D	2/24/2010	M2008-113;R 10,	/12/12	M361/2	
54593	MEMO	ALLI	EN TO HAIG RE IR	AN	1	3/31/1981	B1
		D	2/24/2010	M2008-113			
54594	MEMO	SICK	TO ALLEN RE IRA	AN	, 1	3/29/1981	B1
		R	6/16/2010	M113/1			
54595	MEMO	ALLI	EN TO THE PRESID	ENT RE IRAN	. 1	3/20/1981	B1
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54596	MEMO	SICK	TO KIMMITT RE I	RAN	1	3/18/1981	B1
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54597	MEMO	KIMI	MITT TO ALLEN R	E IRAN	1	3/18/1981	B1
		D	6/16/2010	M113/1			

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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54599	LETTER	FELD	MAN TO BERNAF	RDEZ RE CASE	2	ND	B1
		D	2/24/2010	M2008-113			
54600	LETTER	HAIG	TO WALDHEIM		1	3/3/1981	B1
•		D	2/24/2010	M2008-113			
54601	MEMO	KEMI TALC	P TO ALLEN RE M	EETING WITH	1	4/7/1981	B1
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54602	MEMO		N TO THE PRESID	DENT RE HOSTAGE MISSION	1	4/9/1981	B1
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54603	MEMO		TO THE PRESIDE	ENT RE HOSTAGE MISSION	3	4/3/1981	B1
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#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/SENSITIVE

54590

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT:

Commission on Iranian Agreements

The President has reviewed your memorandum of January 29, 1981, on the above subject and has approved your recommendation that an independent Presidential Commission on the Iranian agreements not be established. The President agrees that the issues could best be addressed by an "in house" evaluation, for subsequent Cabinet review and Presidential decision as required. (S)

Richard V. Allen Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

SECRET/SENSITIVE DRV CL BY STATE REVIEW 1/27/01 REASON: RDS-3

, declassified

MLRR M208-113#54540

BY LW MARA DATE 2-24-10

0184

# THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

January 31, 1981

MR. PRESIDENT:

#### ADDITIONAL VIEWS

Jim Baker instructed me to note that he strongly agrees with the attached recommendation by Al Haig: i.e., he is "against establishing an independent Commission on the Iranian agreements." (He is also anxious to have the internal review completed quickly.)

1.6.0.

Richard G. Darman White House Staff Secretary

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#### Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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ALLEN TO THE PRESIDENT RE COMMISSION

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January 28, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR:

:

THE PRESIDENT

From

Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

Subject

An Independent Commission

on the Iranian Agreements

I have considered the possibility of an independent Presidential Commission on the Iranian agreements. On balance I do not think it is a good idea and therefore recommend against it.

The major <u>advantages</u> of establishing a Commission are that it might:

- -- Remove the issue temporarily from the agenda of a new government that has many more pressing issues before it.
- -- Diffuse the emotional climate and permit a consideration of complex legal, financial, and international issues in a more deliberate atmosphere.

But I find the Commission's <u>disadvantages</u> more telling:

- -- It would be difficult to control the outcome.
- -- It would be viewed as an indecisive way to handle the situation.

You have taken the initiative with a tough statement announcing that any future seizure of U.S. diplomatic Missions would lead to immediate retribution. Appointing a Commission would prolong the focus on the Iranian seizure, and transfer the initiative to the independent Commission as well as to nearly inevitable Congressional hearings. Therefore, I think it is not desirable. I have discussed this issue with Senator Baker (who proposed a Presidential Commission) and he is prepared to support us whichever way you decide to go. He is confident he can manage the problems on his side if you decide against a Commission.

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SENSITIVE RDS-3 1/27/01 DECLASSIFIED

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-2-

Ultimately you will have to make the hard decisions required on the basis of internal Administration thinking. It is best that we keep control over this issue. The Interdepartmental Group that I established at your direction is currently clarifying the technical issues involved. That evaluation will provide the basis for development of the very sensitive policy issues that will need to be considered by the Cabinet and decided by you.



#### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SECRET/SENSITIVE ATTACHMENT

54589

ACTION

March 13, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RICHARD V. ALLEN

FROM:

GEOFFREY KEMP

SUBJECT:

Commission on Iranian Agreements

The memorandum from Al Haig at Tab B appears to be an ancient piece of business which may have already been taken care of. If not, I have included a memorandum for Haig at Tab A informing him of the President's decision.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum at Tab A, unless this decision has already been relayed to the Secretary of State.

APPROVE	DISAPPROVE
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	Conserved.
	Hilson

SECRET/SENSITIVE ATTACHMENT Review March 13, 1987 **DECLASSIFIED** 

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BY\_KML\_NARA DATE 6/18/10

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RECEIVED 31 JAN 81 14

TO PRES

FROM HAIG, A

DOCDATE 28 JAN 81

KEYWORDS: IRAN

SUBJECT: AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON IRANIAN AGREEMENTS

ACTION: FOR DECISION

DUE:

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MEESE, E

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ALLEN TO HAIG RE IRAN

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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#### **MEMORANDUM**

# -CONFIDENTIAL

#### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

12630

March 25, 1981

54594

#### ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD V. ALLEN

FROM:

GARY SICK

SUBJECT:

Iran: Withdrawal of U.S. Case from
International Court of Justice (C)

The President has approved Secretary Haig's recommendation that the U.S. case against Iran be withdrawn from the International Court of Justice, as called for in the Algiers agreement. The attached memorandum (Tab I) to Secretary Haig authorizes this action to be taken. (C)

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum to Secretary Haig at Tab I.



-CONFIDENTIAL

Rvw. on 3/18/84

**DECLASSIFIED** 

NLRR MOR-113 #54594

BY KML NARA DATE 6/18/10

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

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ALLEN TO THE PRESIDENT RE IRAN

## Ronald Reagan Library

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KIMMITT TO ALLEN RE IRAN

54597 MEMO

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### HAIG TO THE PRESIDENT RE IRAN

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PRES

FROM HAIG, A

DOCDATE 16 MAR 81

KEYWORDS: LEGAL ISSUES

IRAN

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SUBJECT: IRAN - WITHDRAWAL OF US CASE FM INTL COURT OF JUSTICE

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR ALLEN

DUE: 18 MAR 81 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

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KIMMITT

**KEMP** 

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#### **MEMORANDUM**

#### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

April 7, 1981

1367

54601

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD V. ALLEN

FROM:

GEOFFREY KEMP /

SUBJECT:

Meeting with Former Congressman

13526 E. O. <del>12950</del> As Amended Sec. 3.3 (1)(1)

On Tuesday, March 24 at 5:00 p.m., I met with your friend, former Congressman in his office at

Avenue. With him was

The purpose of the meeting was to convince me was an honest, level-headed, serious man who had a deep affection for the United States and was not in any way self-serving; that he was in close contact with most of the serious exile groups and he, more than anyone else, had the capacity to advise us on who should or should not be supported in any attempt to replace the Khomeini government. It was a rather (awkward) conversation. This is one of several conversations I have had with Iranian exiles and quite frankly it is a difficult problem. They do make a good point, namely that time is on the side of the Soviets and if we are going to do anything to help "friendlier" people regain power in Iran we have to act now rather than later. They are very fearful that if we wait until Khomeini dies, that anarchy will descend on the country and the Left will win. They believe that an orchestrated plan coordinated on the outside using the most modern and sophisticated communications techniques could essentially do a "Khomeini in reverse." I am not at all convinced of this, and neither are our people at the Agency.

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

NLRR MI13 # 54601

BY KAL NARA DATE 3/29/12

Review on April 7, 1987

nor and !
Thanks!
Thanks!

1224367

# THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

21

March 18, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR GEOFFREY KEMP

FROM:

RICHARD V. ALLEN

Geoff --

This is a former congressman from California and a friend. He believes that he has special access to Iranians. Please talk to him on the phone or meet with him briefly, whichever will involve a minimum expenditure of time.

Attachment

#785-4954

500

#### March 18, 1981

Dear Burt:

Thanks for your letter of March 13.

It would be a good idea for you to call Dr. Geoffrey Kemp of the National Security Council staff (395-3491). Geoff Kemp is an expert on these matters, and would benefit from a discussion with you. He will, in turn, give me a full report.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Richard V. Allen

Mr. Burt L. Talcott Louis C. Kramp and Associates Suite 301 1919 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D. C. 20006

TELEPHONE (202) 785-4954

NSC 17/367 23

### LOUIS C. KRAMP

AND ASSOCIATES

SUITE 301

1919 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NORTHWEST WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

March 13, 1981

Sut

The Honorable Richard V. Allen Assistant to President for National Security Affairs West Wing of White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Dick:

I am constrained to write again regarding the important issue of future U.S. relations with respect to Iran which is fast ripening for decision in "State" or your shop.

The principal active, organized group in Iran is Soviet. Conditions are deteriorating rapidly. The Khomeini's rule could end any day. Some crucial developments are surfacing in public print (see enclosure). U.S. influence is almost nil, although it could be significant. Unless the Administration makes a positive decision very soon, it could be foreclosed from a dominant positive role in that critical country for decades.

I believe that we are privy to the most reliable information and trustable people in Iran and that we can help you. I would like to talk with you for 2 minutes or with your designated representative for 10-15 minutes. Can we please arrange one such meeting.

I again commend your stellar performance. I hope all continues to go well. Warm personal regards.

Sincerely,

Burt L. Talcott

Enclosure: Page 32, Defense and Foreign Affairs Magazine

# Current Estimates





# Iran at a Watershed

A Report by Gregory Copley, Publisher

The release during January 1981 of the US Embassy officials who had been held hostage by radical groups in Iran has impacted considerably on the overall strategic picture relating to the country itself, the Persian Gulf region, and the East-West confrontation.

Firstly, the removal of the hostages has — along with the change of US Government — removed the paralysis of the United States policymaking machine with regard to strategic initiatives in the region.

Secondly, the cohesiveness of the radical-left movements inside Iran now no longer depends upon the common ground, which was for some time the hostage issue. This has left the radical-left now under much stronger Soviet influence, via the Tudeh (communist) Party, and without an independent bargaining chip (which the hostages represented).

Thirdly, much of the domestic focus is now channelled to other targets than the United States.

Fourth, all political groupings involved in Iran (though not necessarily inside its borders in an overt sense) can now maneuver more freely in the time slot between the end of the hostage era and the demise of the Ayatollah Khomeini, estimated to be in the near future, or the collapse of the clerical system of government (whichever comes first).

#### CURRENT BACKGROUND

Widespread unrest — apart from the conflict with Iraq — is evident throughout Iran, but on a different level than during the past year. There is considerable evidence pointing to the fact that issues may come to a head by around the time of the Persian New Year (Now Ruz) in late March.

The Government position has been bolstered to some extent by the resumed production and export of small amounts of oil (400,000 to 700,000 bpd).

Little or none of the cash remains from the US transfer of frozen funds to the Iranian Government in January, and the Government's ability to pay for continued supplies of military equipment is limited.

The radical-left groups have been maneuvering strongly in preparation for action in the wake of the demise of the clerics, or at least of Khomeini. The following estimated strengths are reported by reliable sources:

Mujabeddin (nominally Islamic-Marxist, but fully Soviet/Tudeh controlled): Now has a reported 30,000 men under arms, and the ability the put a total 100,000 under arms at 48 hours' notice. Exceptionally well-disciplined in core units; long pre-revolutionary history of major guerilla actions. Led by Massoud Rajavi, 36, who is known to be more Marxist than Islamic.

Fedayeen (Marxist): Has a reported 6,000 men under arms and the ability within 48 hours to put 20,000 under arms. Leadership currently divided, but could be cohesive in the face of a threat.

The Tudeb Party (Soviet-line formal communist party): Dr Kianouri has consolidated the party inside Iran since the Shah left in February 1979. It now claims privately to control all the radical-left groupings in the country.

The radical/pro-Soviet left must be considered to be the strongest grouping in the country. It has in recent months been escalating its domestic propaganda campaign, and has the support of extensive Soviet covert operations inside Iran, especially in the north-western areas abutting the USSR.

The religious *bloc* is also not without its strengths. The Revolutionary Guard (Passdaran) has as many as 40,000 men under arms in key positions, with the potential to thwart any moves by the Armed Forces to stage a *coup*. Nonetheless, the Passdaran/religious position is jeopardized by the penetration of the religious groups by the Soviets.

Externally — but with strong links inside Iran — the opposition is now consolidating around the Azadegan (literally, "free man") organization of former Armed Forces commander-in-chief Gen. Bahram Aryana, now in Paris. The groups around civilian politician Dr Shahpour Bakhtiar and former Army chief Gen. Oveisi have lost their credibility because of their support, originally, for Iraq, which is now warring with Iran. As well, they failed to consolidate all ranges of Iranian opposition expression.

Gen. Aryana is the only opposition leader to have developed a full command staff structure and support from all nationalist elements from the moderate left to the monarchists. He has developed a program not just to topple the present government and the radicals inside Iran, but for the reconstruction of the country. In this he is unique.

Gen. Aryana's credentials, too, are in order: he was removed as C-in-C for having launched an attack against Iraq almost 10 years ago. He left to live on his pension in Paris. He has no taints of corruption around him; he has not sided with Iraq (though he feels he could end the current war through negotiation); and his independence of action, though strongly patriotic, made him his own man, rather than the Shah's. He feels that he could bring about a workable relationship with the USSR, and a sufficiently neutral stance from the US to make this work.

Extensive conversations with the General by this writer over the past year (as well as with other Iranian opposition leaders) have led to the conclusion that Azadegan and its supporters are the only grouping ready for the watershed of events likely to occur in Iran. They are more ready than possibly any government other than the Soviet government.

Unless Azadegan can move in the coming months, Iran's future must be seen to lie close to that of Afghanistan.

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18 MAR 81

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AND 7/1/08 ALLEN

18 MAR 81

KEYWORDS: IRAN

SUBJECT: WRITES RE US FUTURE RELATIONS W/ IRAN

ACTION: ALLEN SGD LTR TO TALCOTT DUE: 23 MAR 81 STATUS S FILES

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#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION

April 9, 1981

54402

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT:

Hostage Compensation Commission

I concur with the recommendation by Secretary Haig (Tab A) that you nominate five additional members of a Hostage Compensation Commission and that you sign the amendment to Executive Order 12285 (Tab B). (C)

#### Recommendation

That you approve the recommendation and sign the Amendment to the Executive Order.

Review April 1, 1987
Deriv. cl. by D/S

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NLRRMOX-113 # 54602

BY ME NARA DATE 6/18/10

# THE SECRETARY OF STATE WASHINGTON

April 3, 1981

54603

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

From:

Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

Subject:

Hostage Compensation Commission

On January 19, President Carter issued Executive Order 12285 establishing the Hostage Compensation Commission and appointed Henry Bellmon, Robert Giaimo, Patricia Harris and Cyrus Vance as members. Under the Order, you can appoint up to five remaining members and designate the Chairman from among the members. After careful consideration, I recommend that you now appoint the five remaining members and designate the Chairman. I further recommend that you issue an amendment to the Order (attached) to give the Commission the necessary time in which to file its report.

After considering alternative mechanisms for studying the question of hostage compensation, including an interagency group, I have concluded that the Commission would be the best vehicle. It has a broad mandate to study the question of compensation for the former hostages and other categories of U.S. nationals who have been or might be held captive. It is directed to hold hearings, consider past precedents (such as POWs), and address the issue of standards for compensation, including recommendation as to any necessary legislation. It should be perceived as fair and should avoid setting unrealistic precedents that might cause a drain on the U.S. Treasury.

I have considered a number of possible appointments to the Commission and have compiled a list which includes representation from the career Foreign Service, a former POW, and other distinguished individuals.

#### Recommendation

That you approve the appointment of the five remaining members of the Commission and designate the Chairman from among them:

CONFIDENTIAL GDS 4/1/87

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, MLRR M2002-113#54603

BY LW NARA DATE 2-24-10

# CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

Chair - Ambassador Ann Armstrong Alternate - Carla Hills (if Ambassador Armstrong declines)

Ambassador L. Dean Brown William T. Coleman Senator Jeremiah Denton Samuel Martinez

Senator Jeremiah Denton Samuel Martinez		
Approve	Disapprove	_
That you issue the attached a Order 12285 to give the Commission its report.		
Approve	Disapprove	 _

Attachment:
As stated.



OMB is preparing the attachment. It will be attached at the White House. (4)  $4^{16}$ 

(419/81 constructions)

MEMORANDUM ...

#### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

April 4, 1981

54604

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD V. ALLEN

FROM:

GARY SICK

SUBJECT:

Hostage Compensation Commission

The memorandum at Tab A from Secretary Haig recommends that the President nominate the remaining members of a Hostage Compensation Commission. \* (C)

### Recommendation

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I. (U)

Annrove	Disapprove
 Approve	preabbrose

\* Note that Tab B is being done by DMB and is to be added in the white House.

CONFIDENTIAL
Review April 1, 1987
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FROM HAIG, A

DOCDATE 03 APR 81

KEYWORDS: IRAN

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SUBJECT: HOSTAGE COMPENSATION COMMISSION

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