

DATE 10/10/78

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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September 1978

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MESSAGE

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DE RUEHC #8295 2723355
O R 2023427 SEP 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE 8918

INFO WHITE HOUSE 2774
BT

~~SECRET~~ STATE 248298
ACRIS
E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGSI PROC, IR

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR THE SHAH

PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO THE SHAH:

BEGIN TEXT:

"YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY:

I AM VERY PLEASED THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO MEET ON MONDAY WITH
AMBASSADOR ATHERTON FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE CAMP DAVID
AGREEMENTS. AS YOU KNOW, I VALUE YOUR VIEWS AND HAVE READ
WITH GREAT INTEREST AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S REPORT OF HIS
CONVERSATION WITH YOU. I ESPECIALLY APPRECIATE YOUR GOOD
WISHES AND EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR OUR EFFORTS TOWARDS
PEACE.

I WOULD LIKE TO ADD A FEW WORDS OF MY OWN TO WHAT AMBASSADOR
ATHERTON HAS SAID. AS YOU ARE AWARE FROM YOUR READING OF
THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS, THEY DO NOT PRETEND TO SOLVE ALL
THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY THIRTY YEARS OF CONFLICT BETWEEN
ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS. OBVIOUSLY, THE PROBLEMS

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DATE 1-12/78

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

2

MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

ATTEMPT UPON THE ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT ARE FAR TOO DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX TO BE COMPLETELY RESOLVED IN A FEW DAYS OR EVEN A FEW WEEKS. I DO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE AGREEMENTS OFFER THE ARAB SIDE THE OPPORTUNITY, THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN A PROCESS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES WILL REMAIN ACTIVELY ENGAGED, TO ACHIEVE THEIR LONG CHERISHED LEGITIMATE OBJECTIVES. AT THE SAME TIME THE AGREEMENTS ALSO OFFER ISRAEL THE FULLEST GUARANTEES FOR ITS SECURITY AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE THE PEACE WITH AND ACCEPTANCE BY ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS THAT HAVE SO LONG BEEN ISRAEL'S GOAL. THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS ARE PRECISELY WHAT THEIR NAME IMPLIES, FRAMEWORKS WITHIN WHICH THE PARTIES CAN WORK TO REACH A JUST, LASTING AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE.

LET ME MAKE CLEAR THAT THE CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS ARE ONLY A BEGINNING, ALTHOUGH A VERY GOOD ONE I THINK. THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO REMAIN FULLY ENGAGED AND TO PURSUE ITS EFFORTS UNTIL THE WORK BEGUN AT CAMP DAVID IS CARRIED THROUGH TO ITS CONCLUSION. IT IS DISTURBING THAT ELEMENTS IN THE REGION HAVE JOINED WITH THE SOVIETS TO OPPOSE THE AGREEMENTS. WE BELIEVE WE MUST STAND FIRM WITH THOSE IN THE REGION WHO ARE PREPARED TO SEIZE THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY AS THE ONLY REALISTIC WAY TO MOVE TOWARD PEACE.

I UNDERSTAND AND FULLY APPRECIATE THE CONCERN THAT YOU EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR ATHERTON REGARDING THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS FACING OUR FRIEND KING HUSSEIN. I AM AWARE OF THE QUESTIONS THAT KING HUSSEIN HAS ASKED ABOUT THE CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS, AND I WELL KNOW THE DIFFICULTIES AND DANGERS THAT A DECISION BY HIM TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD INVOLVE. AGAINST THESE, HE MUST WEIGH THE DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR JORDAN AND ALL OF US IF WE LOSE THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE THAT THE MIDDLE EAST HAS KNOWN, ONE THAT WILL NOT SOON COME AGAIN. IT IS MY PROFOUND HOPE THAT AFTER DUE REFLECTION KING HUSSEIN WILL AGREE TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WEST BANK/GAZA INTERIM REGIME. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS DECISION WILL BE THE RIGHT ONE FOR HIM, FOR THE PEOPLE OF JORDAN, AND FOR THE PALESTINIANS AND ARABS EVERYWHERE. IF HE DOES AGREE TO JOIN HE CAN COUNT ON MY COMMITMENT TO REMAIN AT HIS SIDE UNTIL ALL THE ISSUES ARE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED.

I KNOW THAT KING HUSSEIN WILL BE WEIGHING THIS MATTER VERY CAREFULLY IN THE DAYS AHEAD AND PERHAPS TAKING COUNSEL WITH HIS FRIENDS. I WOULD DEEPLY APPRECIATE ANY SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT YOU MIGHT FEEL YOU COULD GIVE HIM TOWARD

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DATE 12/19/78
3

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02

MESSAGE (CONTINUED):

JOINING THE NEGOTIATIONS. I AM PERSUADED THAT THIS IS THE RIGHT COURSE, THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN BRING BENEFIT TO JORDAN AND TO ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST. SUCH SUPPORT AS YOU MAY FEEL YOU CAN PRIVATELY LEAVE WITH OTHERS WILL ALSO BE HELPFUL TO OUR SHARED OBJECTIVE OF PEACE.

AS YOU AND I HAVE DISCUSSED IN THE PAST, IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES MUST REMAIN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE SEARCH FOR THE RESOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT WHICH ULTIMATELY HAS A CRITICAL BEARING ON THE STABILITY OF THE REGION AND THE VITAL INTERESTS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THE INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES THAT IRAN IS CONFRONTING REMAIN VERY MUCH IN MY MIND AND I AM PLEASED THAT THE SITUATION APPEARS FURTHER IMPROVED SINCE OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION. I SHALL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW WITH INTEREST AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN'S REPORTS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH YOU AND THE PROGRESS IN THE PROGRAMS YOU HAVE SET FORTH. YOU KNOW YOU HAVE MY SUPPORT FOR THESE EFFORTS. SINCERELY,
JIMMY CARTER. END TEXT."

2. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED COPY OF THE LETTER. CHRISTOPHER

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