Message Text

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PAGE 01  TEHRAN 05192  251220Z

44
ACTION NEA-16

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
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E.O. 11652; GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, FR, IR
SUBJ: SHAH'S ALLEGED STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

REF: A. PARIS 15305; B. STATE 135137 (NOTAL; C. TEHRAN 5166

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PAGE 02  TEHRAN 05192  251220Z

SUMMARY: OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN MININFO AND TOURISM
KIANPOUR ON JUNE 24 ISSUED STRONG DENIAL OF LES INFORMATIONS REPORT OF SHAH'S STATEMENT ON IRANIAN PLANS TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WHILE ALSO LABELING AS FALSE REPORTED IMPERIAL CRITICISM OF INDIAN A-BOMB, KIANPOUR NOTED MONARCH HAD ACTUALLY SAID THAT IRAN WAS NOT THINKING OF ACQUIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUT MAY HAVE TO REVISE THIS POLICY IF OTHER NATIONS DEVELOP THEM. GOI DENIAL, THOUGH PERHAPS INDICATING SLIGHT SHIFT IN HIMS THINKING IN WAKE OF INDIAN EXPLOSION IS IN KEEPING WITH PAST IRANIAN DECLARATIONS OF INTENT NOT TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPACITY. END SUMMARY.

1. IRANIAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM GHOULAM REZA KIANPOUR JUNE 24 ISSUED STRONG OFFICIAL DENIAL OF SHAH'S COMMENTS IN FRENCH PUBLICATION LES INFORMATIONS (REPORTED REF A.) REGARDING POSSIBLE IRANIAN ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ACCORDING KIANPOUR HIM ACTUALLY SAID IRAN IS NOT THINKING OF BUILDING ATOMIC WEAPONS BUT MY REVISE ITS POLICY IN THIS REGARD IF OTHER NON-NUCLEAR NATIONS DO.

2. KIANPOUR ALSO LABELED FALSE THE LES INFORMATIONS REPORT THAT MONARCH HAD IMPLIED INDIA HAD NEGLECTED WELFARE OF ITS PEOPLE IN ORDER ATTAIN NUCLEAR CAPABILITY.

3. IT IS UNCLEAR WHERE AND WHEN INTERVIEW ACTUALLY OCCURRED. OFFICIAL PARS NEWS AGENCY CLAIMS IT TOOK PLACE IN PARIS BUT IN VIEW OF JUNE 23 RELEASE OF INTERVIEW AND ARRIVAL OF IMPERIAL COUPLE IN FRANCE JUNE 24, THIS OBVIOUSLY INCORRECT.

4. FURTHER CONFUSION ABOUT WHAT SHAH ACTUALLY SAID HAS RESULTED FROM FACT THAT PARS INADVERTENTLY ISSUED TO REUTERS TEXT OF DENIAL WHICH OMITTED COMMENT REGARDING POSSIBLE CHANGES IN IRANIAN POLICY IF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION GOES UNCHECKED.

5. COMMENT: KIANPOUR DENIAL, TOGETHER WITH THAT OF COURT MINISTER ALAM (REF C), CLEARLY INDICATES THAT CURRENT IRANIAN POLICY IS NOT RPT NOT TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH PREVIOUS GOI PRONOUNCEMENTS AND ACTIONS, INCLUDING SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT. IT MAY BE THAT IN INTERVIEW WITH LES INFORMATIONS SHAH WISHED TO SIGNAL HIS CONCERN ABOUT FURTHER PROLIFERATION AND INDICATE THAT IRAN COULD NOT STAND IDLY BY IF OTHER NATIONS LIKE ISRAEL OF EGYPT SHOULD GO NUCLEAR. HOWEVER, WE ACCEPT GOI DENIALS AS ACCURATELY REFLECTING SHAH'S CURRENT INTENTIONS, WHATEVER HE MAY HAVE SAID OFF THE CUFF TO FRENCH JOURNALISTS. HELMS

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AND INDICATE THAT IRAN COULD NOT STAND IDLY BY IF OTHER NATIONS LIKE ISRAEL OF EGYPT SHOULD GO NUCLEAR. HOWEVER, WE ACCEPT GOI DENIALS AS ACCURATELY REFLECTING SHAH'S CURRENT INTENTIONS, WHATEVER HE MAY HAVE SAID OFF THE CUFF TO FRENCH JOURNALISTS. HELMS

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