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ACTION NEA-16

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USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AEC-11
AAECE-00 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 FEA-02 SCI-06
DRC-01 /157 W
OR 251138Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7024
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC

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SUMMARY: OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN MININFO AND TOURISM

Message Text

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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 SPOLESMAN AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM GHOLAM 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 ORFER 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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Subject: SHAH'S ALLEGED STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, FR, IR, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA), (KIANPUOR, GHOLAM REZA)
To: STATE
Type: TE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEHRAN05192
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740166-0805
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path: ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740614/aaaaalwj.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. PARIS 15305; B. STATE 135137 (NOT, AL; C. TEHRAN 5166
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAR 2002 by morefirh>; APPROVED <25 APR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHAH'S ALLEGED STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, FR, IR, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA), (KIANPUOR, GHOLAM REZA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005