

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 025573  
ORIGIN TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 FRB-03 OMB-01  
SAA-01 SS-15 SP-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 ICAE-00 /048 R

DRAFTED BY TREAS/IDN:BBANQUE:BDF  
APPROVED BY NEA/IRN:HPRECHT  
TREAS/ID:ANACHMANOFF  
TREAS/IM:LWIDMAN  
EB/OMA:JLEFGREN  
NEA/IRN:MJOHNSON  
S/S-O:LFLEICHER

-----120475 310305Z /15

O 310128Z JAN 79  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025573

E.O. 12065 GDS 1/30/85 (JOHNSON, MARK)

TAGS: EFIN, IR

SUBJECT: TREASURY AND FEDERAL RESERVE POLICY ON IRANIAN  
ACCOUNTS

REF: TEHRAN 1521

1. THE FEDERAL RESERVE HAS NO AUTHORITY TO INITIATE BLOCK-  
AGE OF ANY COMMERCIAL BANKING OR FEDERAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS.  
ONLY IF THE PRESIDENT DECLARED A NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELATING  
TO IRAN COULD THE TREASURY SECRETARY BLOCK IRANIAN ACCOUNTS,  
AND THERE IS NO RPT NO PLAN TO ISSUE SUCH A DECLARATION.

2. THERE MAY BE SOME CONFUSION BECAUSE THE FEDERAL RESERVE  
BANK EXAMINERS INITIATED AN INFORMAL SURVEY ON JANUARY 26  
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AMONG SOME MEMBER BANKS TO DETERMINE LEVELS OF EXPOSURE IN  
IRAN IN ORDER TO EVALUATE IMPACT ON INDIVIDUAL BANKS OF  
POSSIBLE DELAYS IN PAYMENT. NEW YORK FED IS INFORMING  
BANKS INCLUDED IN SURVEY THAT THE QUESTIONS ARE NOT POSED  
WITH THE THOUGHT OF LATER BLOCKING ACCOUNTS BUT SIMPLY TO  
ASCERTAIN THE NATURE OF EXPOSURE IN THE EVENT OF LONG DELAYS  
IN PAYMENTS.

3. ANOTHER POSSIBLE SOURCE OF CONFUSION MAY RESULT FROM ATTEMPTED ATTACHMENT BY A PRIVATE PARTY OF AN ACCOUNT WITH CHASE WHICH IS HELD IN NAME OF "IRANIANS' BANK" RPT "IRANIANS' BANK." AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, THE USG HAS NO CONTROL OVER SUCH ACTIONS BY PRIVATE PARTIES.

4. NY FED PRESIDENT VOLCKER HAS CALLED FINANCE MINISTER PIRASTEH TO CONVEY THE ABOVE. HE ADDED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE IRANIANS TO MAINTAIN CLEAR AUTHORITY FOR ACTIONS BY THE CENTRAL BANK IN ORDER TO FACILITATE TRANSACTIONS AND MAINTAIN CONFIDENCE THAT THE IRANIAN FINANCIAL SYSTEM REMAINS OPEN.

5. EMBASSY SHOULD REPEAT THE ABOVE TO MINISTER PIRASTEH AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

6. NEITHER WASHINGTON AGENCIES NOR THE FED ARE PLANNING A PRESS RELEASE BECAUSE IT WOULD PROBABLY STIR ADDITIONAL CONCERN HERE. A Q AND A HAS BEEN PREPARED AND WILL BE CABLED SEPTEL. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, ACCOUNTS, FOREIGN EXCHANGE HOLDINGS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS 19850131 JOHNSON, MARK  
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**Review Markings:**  
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