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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSA-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 DRC-01

AID-20 TRSE-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 SCI-06 FEA-02 /192 W

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PR 241510Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0229
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS PARIS 15305

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, FR, IR
SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH SHAH

1. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE FRENCH WEEKLY “LES INFORMATIONS” RELEASED JUNE 23, THE SHAH, REPLYING TO THE QUESTION WHETHER IRAN WOULD ONE DAY POSSESS A NUCLEAR WEAPON, IS QUOTED AS SAYING, “CERTAINLY, AND SOONER THAN IS BELIEVED, BUT CONTRARY TO INDIA, WE HAVE FIRST THOUGHT OF OUR PEOPLE AND THEN OF TECHNOLOGY.”

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YOU SEE THE RESULT TODAY”. 
2. REFERRING TO THE FRANCO-IRANIAN AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN FEBRUARY 1974, THE SHAH SAID THAT THEY WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT EVER SIGNED BETWEEN AN OIL PRODUCING AND AN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY, AMOUNTING TO OVER THREE BILLION DOLLARS. OTHER PROJECTS BEING NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AMOUNT TO FIVE BILLION DOLLARS, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE FRENCH HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN IRAN NOW THAT "CERTAIN ARAB COUNTRIES ARE CLOSED TO THEM, ESPECIALLY SINCE MR. NIXON'S VISIT TO RIAD AND CAIRO".


4. ACCORDING TO AN AFP ITEM, THE IRANIAN EMBASSY HERE ISSUED A STATEMENT JUNE 24 DENYING THAT THE SHAH INTENDED TO GIVE IRAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS. "THIS INFORMATION IS TOTALLY INVENTED AND WITHOUT ANY BASIS WHATSOEVER", THE EMBASSY SAID, SPECIFYING THAT THE SHAH HAD NEVER MADE A STATEMENT THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED IN THAT SENSE.

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