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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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WHSR COMMENT: CLEAN COPY FOR THE PRESIDENT

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FM CABINET OFFICE

*RR  
Seems like a very  
good idea - The Team*

TO THE WHITE HOUSE

~~SECRET~~ VIA CABO CHANNELS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN

DEAR RON,

I KNOW THAT YOU SHARE MY CONCERN ABOUT THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR AND THE DANGER THAT THE SITUATION COULD SUDDENLY DETERIORATE, WITH POSSIBLY GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR WESTERN INTERESTS.

OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH YOURS ABOUT CONTINGENCY PLANNING. AS A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION OF OUR CONCERN, AND IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM YOUR SIDE, WE HAVE DECIDED TO ADVANCE THE STATE OF READINESS OF A MINE COUNTER-MEASURES FORCE WITH A VIEW TO DEPLOYING IT TO THE MEDITERRANEAN.

WE SHALL NOT GIVE PUBLICITY TO THIS DECISION. IF IT LEAKS WE SHALL MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE PURPOSE IS SOLELY PRUDENT CONTINGENCY PLANNING. IT IS OBVIOUSLY IMPORTANT TO AVOID GIVING EITHER IRAQ OR IRAN THE IMPRESSION THAT WE EXPECT AN ESCALATION IN THE FIGHTING. TO DO SO WOULD ONLY ADD TO THE TENSION IN THE AREA AND WOULD PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF KHOMEINI

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NLS - F7484/25  
BY - LOJ NARA DATE 8/15/06

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WHO COULD USE IT TO JUSTIFY HIS OWN EXTREME ACTIONS.

WE DO NOT PLAN TO MAKE ANY DECISION NOW ABOUT THE DISPOSITIONS OF OUR ARMILLA PATROL IN THE ARABIAN SEA. NAVAL MOVEMENTS ALREADY PLANNED FOR THE COMING WEEKS WILL IN ANY CASE GIVE US AN ENHANCED PRESENCE IN THE AREA AT CERTAIN TIMES.

THERE IS A FURTHER VERY IMPORTANT POINT. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD USE THE TIME AVAILABLE TO REACH WITH YOU A CLEAR POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE OBJECTIVES OF ANY WESTERN INTERVENTION WHICH MAY BECOME NECESSARY IN THE GULF, THE RANGE OF SITUATIONS WHICH COULD DEVELOP AND THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY ACTION WHICH MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE IN THOSE SITUATIONS. WE WOULD NEED SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING IF WE HAD TO CONSIDER FURTHER COMMITMENTS.

IF YOU AGREE, I SHOULD LIKE TO SEND A SMALL TEAM TO WASHINGTON FOR THIS PURPOSE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, LED BY RICHARD LUCE.

WITH BEST WISHES  
YOURS EVER  
MARGARET

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TO CABINET OFFICE

~~SECRET~~ VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS WH02103

MARCH 16, 1984

DEAR MARGARET,

I READ YOUR LETTER OF YESTERDAY WITH GREAT INTEREST AND WANT TO CONFIRM THAT WE ARE INDEED CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF ESCALATION IN THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR. WE ARE JUST COMPLETING A REVIEW OF ESCALATION SCENARIOS AND THEIR POSSIBLE IMPACT ON WESTERN INTERESTS WITH A VIEW TO IDENTIFYING THE POLITICAL-MILITARY AND ECONOMIC RESPONSES THAT MAY BE NECESSARY. OUR WORK IN THIS REGARD SHOULD BE WELL ALONG BY THE TIME YOUR TEAM ARRIVES AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THESE CONTINGENCIES WITH MR. LUCE AND HIS PARTY.

I FULLY SUPPORT YOUR PLANS FOR ENHANCING THE READINESS OF A MINE COUNTERMEASURES FORCE. THIS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD IMPROVING OUR COLLECTIVE ABILITY TO RESPOND TO ANY ATTEMPT TO CLOSE THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ. TO ANTICIPATE OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. LUCE AND HIS TEAM, WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS AGAINST THE PRODUCTION AND TRANSSHIPMENT FACILITIES IN THE GULF ARAB STATES PROPER. I NEEDN'T TELL YOU THE DISASTROUS IMPACT SUCH ACTIONS MIGHT HAVE ON THE WORLD ENERGY SITUATION, THE WORLD

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NLS F1748#126BY LOJ, NARA, DATE 8/15/06

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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ECONOMY, THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM, AND THE STABILITY OF KEY OIL-PRODUCING STATES IN THE REGION.

IN CLOSING LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT WE WELCOME THE TIMELY VISIT BY YOUR TEAM AND REAFFIRM TO YOU THE IMPORTANCE I PERSONALLY ATTACH TO CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT ON THESE CRITICAL MATTERS.

SINCERELY,

RON

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