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CYPHER/CAT -A-

PRIORITY TEHRAN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1656

TO FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

30 OCTOBER 1968

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- 1 OCT. 1968

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ADDRESSED TO FCO TELEGRAM NO 1656 OF 31 OCTOBER REPEATED FOR INFORMATION IMMEDIATE TO BAHRAIN RESIDENCY AND DUBAI, PRIORITY TO JEDDA AND SAVING TO DOHA, WASHINGTON, BAHRAIN AGENCY AND KUWAIT.

YOUR TELEGRAM NO 2224. (17)

THE TUNBS.

P= 1/2

I CALLED ON THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER THIS AFTERNOON. HE TOLD ME THAT HE HIMSELF HAD NOT SEEN KHALID AND COULD NOT THEREFORE GIVE ME AN ACCOUNT OF MEETINGS WITH HIM. I THEN SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED IN PARA. 3 OF YOUR TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE. I ALSO MADE THE ADDITIONAL POINT THAT WE HAD HEARD FROM KHALID THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT H M C HAD REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THEM OVER THE MEDIAN LINE AND THAT THE TUNBS LAY ON THE IRANIAN SIDE OF IT. WE HAD FELT BOUND TO TELL KHALID THAT THIS WAS QUITE UNTRUE.

2. AFSHAR TOOK ALL THIS WITHOUT DEMUR. HE EXPLAINED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO QUOTE ULTIMATUM UNQUOTE THOUGH THE IRANIANS HAD IMPRESSED ON KHALID THAT THEY WISHED TO REACH AGREEMENT BEFORE THE SHAH WENT TO SAUDI ARABIA. AFSHAR ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT KHALID HAD, HE THOUGHT, BEEN UPSET BY INACCURATE IRANIAN NEWS-PAPER REPORTS (ON 29 OCTOBER) THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA OVER THE GULF ISLANDS.

3. WHILE HERE KHALID SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN HANDLED EXCLUSIVELY

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AND I HAVE LITTLE DOUBT ROUGHLY BY SAVAK. AFSHAR TOLD ME THAT HE HIMSELF HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING A NEW DRAFT NOTE WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE RULER OF RAS AL KHAIMAH WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. HE SAID THAT THIS NOTE MAKES NO REFERENCE TO QUOTE SOVEREIGNTY UNQUOTE OR QUOTE IRANIAN RIGHTS UNQUOTE AND HE HOPED IT WOULD PROVE ACCEPTABLE TO THE RULER. I ASKED AFSHAR WHETHER IF THE NOTE WERE EVER PUBLISHED IT WOULD LAY THE RULER OPEN TO CHARGES OF HAVING BETRAYED THE ARAB CAUSE. AFSHAR REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE THOUGH WITHOUT MUCH CONVICTION

4. I TOLD AFSHAR THAT WE TOO WOULD LIKE TO SEE AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN IRAN AND RAS AL KHAIMAH BEFORE THE SAUDI VISIT, BUT THIS COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED BY BULLYING.

5. THE SHAH DID NOT MENTION THIS VISIT LAST NIGHT (MY TELEGRAM NO 1640, NOT TO ALL).

FCO PASS IMMEDIATE DUBAI AND SAVING DOHA, WASHINGTON, KUWAIT AND BARRAIN AGENCY.

SIR D. WRIGHT.

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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