

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~/PERSONAL 200740 ZFEB 74 VIA
CITE TEHRAN

TO: ADMIRAL MOORER, CHAIRMAN, JCS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

FROM: AMBASSADOR HELMS, TEHRAN

DEAR TOM:

1. YOU MAY HAVE SEEN RECENT CABLES DISCUSSING ASSIGNMENT OF A REAR ADMIRAL AS THE NEW CHIEF OF THE MAAG NAVY SECTION UNDER MGEN BRETT. THIS ISSUE CAME UP A YEAR AGO WHEN THE SHAH PRESSED FOR ADDITIONAL RANK FOR THE MAAG CHIEF AND HIS SERVICE SECTION CHIEFS. THERE WAS RESISTANCE WITHIN DOD, BUT WE WERE ABLE TO OFFER TO REPLACE PRESENT NAVY CAPTAIN HARWARD WITH A REAR ADMIRAL WHEN HARWARD'S TOUR ENDED. THE SHAH WAS PLEASED WITH THIS AND IN THE INTERVENING YEAR HAS NOT RAISED THE SUBJECT AGAIN.

2. THERE IS NO NEED TO DESCRIBE FOR YOU THE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE IRANIAN NAVY IN THE SHAH'S PLANNING FOR REGIONAL SECURITY. EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION OF THE IIN WILL MEAN BOTH SERIOUS GROWING PAINS AND SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION, AFFECTING THE USN AND OVERALL US-IRANIAN RELATIONS. THE CHIEF MILITARY RESPONSIBILITY WILL, OF COURSE, REST

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PAGE TWO TEHRAN _____

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WITH BRETT, BUT HE WILL NEED THE MOST SKILLFUL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE ON NAVAL MATTERS. BRETT WILL ALSO NEED AN OFFICER WITH A DESIRABLE DEGREE OF CLOUT.

3. I HOPE YOU SHARE THESE VIEWS AND WILL TAKE A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE SELECTION OF THE PROPER INDIVIDUAL. WE SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD THE TOMBSTONE APPOINTMENT OF AN OFFICER WHO WILL FINISH HIS CAREER HERE. BRETT AND I THINK WE NEED A YOUNG, HARD-CHARGING OFFICER WHO IS PUSHING FOR HIS NEXT PROMOTION. HE SHOULD BE FAIRLY JUNIOR, FOR THE IIN IS COMMANDED BY A REAR ADMIRAL AND OUR SECTION CHIEF SHOULD NOT OUTRANK HIM. A CAPTAIN FROCKED FOR PROMOTION WOULD BE SUITABLE. BUT THE NOMINEE'S PERSONAL QUALITIES ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING. HE MUST HAVE A SOUND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND, THE TALENTS OF A CAPABLE MANAGER AND THE ABILITY TO PUT HIMSELF ACROSS WITH A PROUD PEOPLE WHO ARE TAKING ON VERY HEAVY TASKS. ABOVE ALL THE NEW OFFICER MUST BE A TEAM PLAYER, ABLE TO WORK EFFECTIVELY AS PART OF BRETT'S EXCELLENT ADVISORY GROUP.

4. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE NAVY ABOUNDS IN SUCH INDIVIDUALS AND LOOK FORWARD TO ADDING A FIRST-CLASS ADMIRAL TO THE STAFF OF THIS MISSION.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE THREE TEHRAN _____ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
WITH WARMEST REGARDS,

AS ALWAYS,

DICK

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~Change~~

Locker good

Ambassador

→ Print
MA

Here is msg I discussed with Ambassador
on assignment of rear admiral to MAAG "avy
Section

If it is sent back channel, I suggest we
mail a copy to JMiklos.

OK
MA

hp pol/m

2/20/74

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Cable to Admiral Moorer, Chairman, JCS, WASHDC

From Ambassador Helms

Dear Tom:

1. You may have seen recent cables discussing assignment of a Rear Admiral as the new chief of the MAAG Navy Section under MGen Brett. This issue came up a year ago when the Shah pressed for additional rank for the MAAG Chief and his service section chiefs. There was resistance within DOD, but we were able to offer to replace present Navy Captain Harward with a Rear Admiral when Harward's tour ended. The Shah was pleased with this and in the intervening year has not raised the subject again.
2. There is no need to describe for you the increasingly important role of the Iranian navy in the Shah's planning for regional security. Expansion and modernization of the IIN will mean both serious growing pains and significant opportunities for cooperation, affecting the USN and overall US-Iranian relations. The chief military responsibility will, of course, rest with Brett, but he will need the most skillful assistance available on naval matters. Brett will also need an officer with a desirable degree of clout.
3. I hope you share these views and will take a personal interest in the selection of the proper individual. We simply cannot afford the tombstone appointment of an officer who will finish

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his career here. Brett and I think we need a young, hard-charging officer who is pushing for his next promotion. He should be fairly junior, for the IIN is commanded by a Rear Admiral and our Section Chief should not outrank him. A Captain frocked for promotion would be suitable. But the nominee's personal qualities are the most important thing. He must have a sound professional background, the talents of a capable manager and the ability to put himself across with a proud people who are taking on very heavy tasks. Above all the new officer must be a team player, able to work effectively as part of Brett's excellent advisory group.

4. I have no doubt that the Navy abounds in such individuals and look forward to adding a first-class admiral to the staff of this Mission.

With warmest regards,

As always,

Dick

Drafted by: POL/M:HPrecht:ct:cs
2/4/74; 2/20/74

Clearance: DCM:DHeck
A/M:MGen Brett

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~~CONFIDENTIAL/PERSONAL~~

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~~DRAFT~~

Ambassador
MAAG "avy

suggest we

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~~Charge~~ *be*
Ambassador

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With warmest regards,

As always,

Jim

Drafted by:

POL/M:HPrecht:ct
2-4-74

Clearance:

Charge:DHeck
A/M:MGen Brett

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