



~~S E C R E T~~/EYES ONLY PAGE 2

HIM RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PROPER MIX OF F-14 AND F-15 AIRCRAFT HE SHOULD PURCHASE. I INDICATED THAT SUCH STUDIES TAKE TIME BUT THAT I WOULD INQUIRE OF YOU WHEN SOME RESPONSE MIGHT BE EXPECTED.

5. WE AGREED TO TALK ABOUT CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN WHEN HE RETURNS TO TEHRAN. HE SAID THAT YOU HAD MENTIONED THIS MATTER TO AMB. ZAHEDI BUT THAT HE HAD TOLD ZAHEDI HE WOULD HANDLE WITH ME. INCIDENTALLY, THERE WAS SOMETHING IN SHAH'S MANNER WHICH MADE ME CONCERNED THAT HE MAY BE OVERREADING THIS EXERCISE. THE ORIENTAL MIND CAN RAPIDLY CONJURE UP ELEMENTS WHICH DO NOT NECESSARILY EXIST, AND I FEEL THAT IT BEHOOVES ME NEXT TIME AROUND TO PUT THIS IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE. THE LAST THING WE NEED IS SOME ILL-ADVISED MOVE OR INQUIRY WHICH MIGHT GET BACK TO SAUDIS. IT IS HAZARDOUS ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH THE SHAH HIMSELF AND WHAT MIGHT BECOME HIS TEMPTATION TO DO SOME LEAKING FOR HIS OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES.

6. WARM REGARDS.

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