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CITE DIRECTOR

INFO PRIORITY TEHRAN.

NYBAT

EYES ONLY

TO AMBASSADOR HELMS FROM WARREN

REF: TEHRAN

1. THE COMPLAINT YOU RECEIVED WAS FILED IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DISTRICT COURT IN LATE OCTOBER 1975. HOWEVER, TO DATE NO COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN SERVED ON ANY INDIVIDUALS IN THE WASHINGTON AREA. THERE WAS ALSO A QUESTION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AS TO WHO WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY TO DEFEND THIS CASE.

2. I WOULD WISH YOU TO WRITE TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL REQUESTING THAT YOU BE DEFENDED IN THIS CASE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. YOU MAY RECALL THAT THE AGO RAISED SOME INTEREST IN THIS SUIT WHEN THEY ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE TOTAL DAMAGES SOUGHT WERE FIVE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS. I WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED WHEN WE HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

3. THE SENATE - SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE (SSC) ISSUED ON 28 NOVEMBER 1975 IN TITLED "AN INTERIM REPORT" ON THE "ALLEGED ASSASSINATION PLOTS INVOLVING FOREIGN LEADERS." THIS WAS DONE AFTER UNPREDECEDED PUBLIC APPEALS BY PRESIDENT AND DCI TO SSC AND TO SENATE ITSELF THAT REPORT SHOULD NOT BE RELEASED AND THEN THERE WERE SUBSEQUENT EFFORTS BY DCI TO AT LEAST HAVE NAMES OF PEOPLE DELETED. NAMES WERE IN THREE CATEGORIES: (1) EMPLOYEES OR FORMER EMPLOYEES OF AGENCY; (2) INDIVIDUALS COOPERATING WITH AGENCY; (3) CERTAIN FOREIGNERS. SSC HAD BELIEVED ABOUT 20 NAMES BUT REFUSED OR REMAINED IN DCI. DCI HAD INSISTED THAT ALL PERSONS WHOSE NAMES APPEARED IN REPORT BE ADVISED OF THIS. I AM SO ADVISING YOU. I AM SURE INCLUSION OF YOUR NAME IS NO SURPRISE.

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4. DCI ON 19 NOVEMBER CONDUCTED PRESS CONFERENCE EXPLAINING AGAIN WHY HE BELIEVED REPORT SHOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED. HE STATED REPORT WOULD BE HARMFUL TO USG AND ITS RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN POWERS. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT A GREAT DEAL OF EVIDENCE IS MURKY AND NOT CONCLUSIVE. HE CONCENTRATED, HOWEVER, ON HIS VIEW OF WHY NAMES SHOULD BE DELETED. HE POINTED OUT BASIC CONSIDERATIONS OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND FACT THAT APPEARANCE OF THESE NAMES IN THIS CONTEXT COULD SUBJECT SOME OF THE INDIVIDUALS TO RETALIATION OR VIOLENCE FROM IRRATIONAL PERSONS OR GROUPS, EITHER FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC.

5. SENATE IN 4-HOUR EXECUTIVE SESSION ON 22 NOVEMBER CONSIDERED QUESTION OF RELEASE OF REPORT. IT NEVER CAME TO SCRIP WITH ISSUE RELYING ON PARLIAMENTARIAN RULING THAT COMMITTEE HAD AUTHORITY TO RELEASE REPORT WHICH THEY HAD VOTED TO DO. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT CONCURRENTLY HAD WRITTEN AT LEAST 7 SENATORS URGING NO RELEASE AS HAD DCI IN LETTER TO A FEW SENATORS, NO MOTIONS WERE MADE TO STOP RELEASE, AND IN EFFECT RELEASE WAS EFFECTED BY LACK OF ANY ACTION BY THE SENATE AS A BODY. REGARDS.

6. NO FILE. RE IMPDET.

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