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TO: DIRECTOR <sup>546</sup> PRIORITY 25390

OCTOBER 1, 1974

TO GENERAL WALTERS FROM HELMS

HR70-14  
(U)

REF: DIRECTOR

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: MAR 2008

1. This will acknowledge ref. Please advise Admiral Raborn that if he desires an audience with the Shah, he must get in touch with Ambassador Zahedi in Washington and make any such arrangements through him. The planning of dates for a visit to Tehran must obviously flow from the date of such an audience if it is indeed arranged. We have no views here on whether one date would be better than another. Incidentally, is a "stationary power generating plant" for use in the military or civilian sector? If it is the former, Admiral Raborn would want to see General Toufanian, the Vice Minister of War, who handles all military purchases. If it is the latter, we would need to know more about its application before we could suggest what ministry or ministries he should visit. When you have advised us as to when Admiral Raborn wants to come, we will do what we can to make hotel reservations. He should realize, however, that hotel accommodations in this city are most difficult to obtain due to the constant influx of businessmen from all over the world. It may interest you personally to know that the Manager of the Hilton here tells me that he has 98% occupancy, a statistic matched by no other Hilton hotel.

2. For your personal information, we in the Embassy avoid like the plague trying to arrange audiences with the Shah for anyone.

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It puts us in an impossible position to ask on behalf of one American but not on behalf of another. There is no criterion that makes sense, so it is far better to let Ambassador Zahedi sort out the individual requests. For some strange reason, "seeing the Shah" has become ~~some~~ sort of a weird tourist attraction for Americans. They seem to forget that he is not only a chief of state but these days he is not asking for aid, loans, or anything else. <sup>Incidentally,</sup> Since you know the history of this country so well, you can imagine the "Schadenfreude" with which the Shah some weeks ago mentioned to me en passant that he was going to make a loan of one billion <sup>and</sup> two hundred million dollars to the British! Warm regards and best wishes.

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