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VV ESA030E IA173
RR RUQMHR
DE RUE IACR 7879 3521443
ZNY XXXXX
R 181439Z DEC 74 ZFF1
FM STATE RCI
TO RUQMHR/TEHRAN
RUQMKW/KUWAIT
BT

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~~TOP SECRET~~ UMBRA 181439Z

SCITEHRAN SCUWAIT

FOR FROM STATE

REF: TEHRAN (NOTAL)

FOR AMBASSADOR HELMS FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

OM SECRETARY



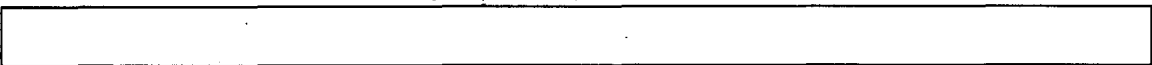
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B. "FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER FROM AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS

" 1. THANKS YOUR MESSAGE.

I WAS PLANNING STRICTLY PRIVATE VISIT TO IRAQ SOMETIME IN 1975. I ADDED THAT IRAQIS MIGHT INTERPRET SUCH VISIT AS LOW-KEY HINT THAT WE WOULD WELCOME IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND IRAQ. I TOLD ZANFORD I PRESUMED THIS WOULD NOT CAUSE IRAN ANY PROBLEMS. ZANFORD REPLIED HE SAW NO PROBLEM AT ALL. IN FACT QUITE THE CONTRARY.

"2. FYI. I CLEARED WITH ROY IN OCTOBER IN WASHINGTON IDEA OF MY PAYING STRICTLY PRIVATE VISIT TO IRAQ. SINCE THEN I HAVE BEEN IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH ART LOWRIE. WE HAVE AGREED I SHALL COME UP TO BAGHDAD AT SOME MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME, PERHAPS EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR. END FYI.



C. I LEAVE IT TO YOUR JUDGMENT WHETHER STOLTZFUS' CLARIFICATION

WILL BE SUFFICIENT OR WHETHER YOU SHOULD ALSO SPEAK TO THE SHAH.

D. I AM FORWARDING TO STOLTZFUS YOUR QUERY TO ME AND THIS REPLY SO THAT YOU BOTH WILL HAVE THE SAME INFORMATION. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS ON THE MATTER.

BT

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2008

HR70-14
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