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British Name Iran-U.S. Go-Between

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LONDON, Nov. 19 — A British television documentary, scheduled to be broadcast here Thursday, will name an Iranian businessman as a likely go-between in the secret diplomacy between the Reagan Administration and the Teheran authorities early this year.

The businessman, Cyrus Hashemi, died suddenly in a private London hospital in July of what was diagnosed as a rare form of cancer.

At the time of his death, his brother here suggested that Mr. Hashemi might have been killed because of his role as a Justice Department informant in a case of illegal arms smuggling to Iran. The smuggling case resulted in the indictment in New York of an Israeli general and nine others accused of being co-conspirators.

The Thames Television documentary, which was shown in a preview here today, bases its contention that Mr. Hashemi was functioning as an Administration intermediary on sources it does not identify and on an interview with Elliott L. Richardson, the former Attorney General who is described as having acted as Mr. Hashemi's lawyer.

C.I.A. Contact Reported

Speaking to viewers at the preview, the reporter responsible for the program, Julian Manyon, quoted Mr. Richardson as having said that he had referred Mr. Hashemi to a contact in the Central Intelligence Agency early this year. According to the reporter, it was not Mr. Richardson but the unidentified sources who confirmed that Mr. Hashemi went to work for the agency.

Earlier this month, while attending a conference in Peking, Mr. Richardson said he had arranged contact between Mr. Hashemi and American officials in an effort to win freedom for the hostages in Lebanon. But he denied any connection to the secret American arms deliveries to Iran.

The thesis of the television documentary is that Mr. Hashemi was involved both in an arms deal the Administration did not authorize — the one that produced the indictments — and in setting up the negotiations that led to the arms shipments that were secretly authorized for Iran. The program asserts that he played a similar intermediary's role in the secret negotiations that preceded the release in 1981 of the hostages held at the American Embassy in Teheran.

Quoting a Justice Department tape of a bugged conversation between Mr. Hashemi and an American lawyer named Samuel Evans, who was also indicted on the illegal arms traffic charges, the program reports that the arms dealers learned late last year that the Administration was changing its line on arms sales to Iran. In the conversation as it is represented on the program, the lawyer says he has heard that Vice President Bush approved the change but that Secretary of State George P. Shultz opposed it. The conversation is said to have been recorded last December.

The source Mr. Evans cites for this information was a reputed arms dealer in the south of France named Jean de la Rocque, also known as Rousseau, who was later named as a co-conspirator with him. Mr. Manyon said he had talked to Mr. de la Rocque, who had confirmed the lawyer's account.

Mr. Evans, the Thames TV program will point out, is a lawyer for Adnan Khashoggi, a Saudi businessman and arms dealer. Mr. Khashoggi was reported by The Observer last Sunday in a vaguely attributed article to have met with high Israeli officials to arrange the arms shipments to Iran.

Meanwhile, Britain's Ministry of Defense confirmed reports that an official Iranian delegation visited London for talks with International Military Sales, a state-owned company that handles

British arms exports. The Iranians were said to be seeking spare parts under contracts that were signed in the 1970's before the fall of the Shah.

Since December 1984, Britain has enforced what the Foreign Office describes as a restrictive policy on sales of military equipment to Iran. It has never banned all such sales, but it has turned down applications for equipment that could be described as "lethal" or that could be said to have a bearing on the balance of power between Iran and Iraq, enemies in the nearly six-year-old Persian Gulf war.

Timothy Renton, a junior minister in the Foreign Office, answered opposition charges that the Government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was as compromised on arms deals with Iran as the Administration was by saying the licenses turned down would have been worth hundreds of millions of pounds to British companies.

Tank Spare Parts Shipped

Nevertheless, about five months after the restrictive policy went into effect, several plane loads of spare parts for Chieftain tanks and Scorpion armored vehicles were flown from Heathrow Airport to Teheran. A Foreign Office official explained that these parts were unrelated to the weapons systems of the tanks or armored cars; requests for spare weapons parts were turned down, the official said.