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FOREIGN MINISTER VELAYATI THIS WEEK MADE THE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL
OFFICIAL IRANIAN VISIT TO KUWAIT SINCE THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION IN
1979. MOREOVER,
SPECULATING THAT A WESTERN HOSTAGE--POSSIBLY ANGLO-IRISH NATIONAL
BRIAN KEENAN--WILL BE RELEASED THIS WEEK.

KEENAN'S RELEASE PROBABLY WOULD BE INTENDED AS A REWARD FOR IRISH SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY IN ADVANCING IRANIAN CONTACTS WITH EC MEMBERS. RAFSANJANI HAS USED THE ISSUE OF EARTHQUAKE AID TO OUTMANEUVER DOMESTIC OPPONENTS OF HOSTAGE RELEASES AND PROBABLY EXPECTS LITTLE OPPOSITION TO FREEING AN IRISHMAN.

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N.R.

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