

9:00 am

4/16/74

Tehran

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20305

15 April 1974

DOS review completed

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: Iranian Request for United States
Assistance in Providing Foodstuffs
for Barzani's Kurds

1. On 14 April 1974 [redacted]

[redacted] a request that the United States Government assist Iran in providing foodstuffs, especially wheat, flour, edible oils, sugar, rice, powdered milk, tea, beans, and potatoes, to the area of Iraq controlled by Mulla Mustafa Barzani's Kurds and blockaded by Baghdad. [redacted]

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[redacted] said that the food situation in the Barzani-held area was becoming critical due to the influx of refugees and Iraqi punitive economic measures. The Iranians also said that the above foods were in short supply in Iran itself and that United States Government support was therefore needed.

2. The above information has been given to Ambassador Helms in Tehran.

3. It is our view that as long as the present state of tension exists between the Baghdad Government and Mulla Mustafa's Kurds, the latter will suffer chronically from food shortages. By trying to be responsive to requests for bulky commodities -- requests which will certainly be recurring -- we run the serious risk of eroding the security of our present operation, not to mention raising our costs to an unacceptable level.

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WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES
AND METHODS INVOLVED

SECRET

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4. It is therefore my recommendation that our response [redacted] point out the difficulties of trying to move securely large amounts of commodities and our unwillingness to thus raise the risk factor to an unacceptable level. If Iran is unable to meet all the Kurds' requirements, it should be recommended to the Kurds that they appeal overtly to eleemosynary organizations equipped to help in this way.


W. E. Colby
Director