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SEE TEHRAN
CITE ~~SEE~~

PERSONAL/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

FOR: HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: TEHRAN, IRAN

REF: WH 30729

1. I DELIVERED THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE SHAH AT 1730 HOURS MARCH 17TH. HE DID NOT WRITE OUT OR DICTATE A RESPONSE. THE FOLLOWING IS THEREFORE THE GIST OF WHAT HE SAID.

2. HE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES TO SEE THE PRESIDENT AND WISHES THE PRESIDENT TO KNOW OF HIS PLEASURE AT RECEIVING AN INVITATION TO DO SO. UNFORTUNATELY, HE HAS A LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA ON OR ABOUT 29 MAY AND HE WILL GO ON FROM THERE TO BULGARIA AND ROUMANIA. HE WILL RETURN TO IRAN ABOUT 10 JUNE. HE THINKS IT BEST NOT TO CONTINUE ON TO THE STATES FROM ROUMANIA LEST IT APPEAR TO BE BUT AN EXTENSION OF THAT TRIP. THE CHILDREN WILL BE GOING TO ST. MORITZ BETWEEN THE 10TH AND THE 20TH OF JUNE, HE COULD CONTINUE ON TO THE STATES ANY TIME AFTER THE 20TH. HE IS FREE FOR THE BALANCE OF THE SUMMER AND RECOGNIZES

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THE VERY HEAVY SCHEDULE WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS. HE WOULD WELCOME ANY SUGGESTION THE PRESIDENT MAY HAVE FOR A DATE AFTER 20 JUNE. HE WONDERED WHETHER THE EMPRESS WAS INCLUDED. I SAID I MIGHT BE PUTTING WORDS IN THE PRESIDENT'S MOUTH BUT I THOUGHT THAT STATE VISITS CUSTOMARILY INCLUDED THE WIFE OF A HEAD OF STATE. I WOULD CHECK HOWEVER TO BE SURE.

3. I ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY POSSIBILITY OF THE SHAH MAKING THE TRIP BEFORE 29 MAY TO WHICH HE REPLIED THAT HE FEARED NOT GIVEN OTHER SCHEDULED THINGS WHICH HE CANNOT CHANGE.

4. COMMENT: THE SHAH WAS OBVIOUSLY VERY PLEASED TO RECEIVE THIS INVITATION AND OBVIOUSLY SORRY ^{THAT} ~~THE~~ PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS PREVENT HIS COMING AT THE TIME SUGGESTED.

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RELEASING OFFICER:

[REDACTED]