

MEMORANDUM

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
THE WHITE HOUSE

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WASHINGTON

March 22, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *BS*
SUBJECT: Response from the Shah
on Nuclear Cooperation *MS*

On February 23, ERDA Administrator Seamans and Under Secretary Maw met with the Shah in Tehran. Following your instructions (Tab C), they explored with the Shah the matter of nuclear controls that would permit us to reach a nuclear agreement with Iran. A report on these discussions is now being prepared.

Dr. Seamans and Mr. Maw delivered your letter to the Shah (Tab B) emphasizing our desire for fruitful nuclear cooperation with Iran and our commitment to the prevention of the use of nuclear technology for weapons purposes. We have asked Iran to play a leading role in controlling the spread of sensitive nuclear technology by foregoing the acquisition of nationally owned and operated reprocessing plants in favor of multinational control.

The Shah has responded warmly to your letter (Tab A). While confirming his own strong non-proliferation stance, he has pointed out that the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) not only is intended to prevent proliferation but to facilitate the diffusion of peaceful nuclear technology. He has given no explicit commitment to multinational reprocessing, though his remarks do not rule it out and his oral remarks to Seamans and Maw give us some hope that a mutually acceptable compromise formula may be attainable.

Our next nuclear discussions with Iran are scheduled for mid-April, and a paper is being prepared for your consideration establishing our position for the April meeting.

No action is required on your part regarding the attached correspondence.

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