



Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1A 2AH

Telephone 01-

NBP 333/2  
Mr [unclear]: MBD.

Thank you for showing me  
the letter. I think its  
admirable, but I shall  
not show it to the PUS,  
lest he queries one word!

R J S Muir Esq  
WASHINGTON

Your reference

Our reference

NBP 333/1

Date

16 November 1978

JLK/KW  
17/x1

IRAN: RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

1. You will by now have your own copy of Brian Crowe's record of 19 October of the British-American Planning Talks held earlier in that month in Washington. In paragraph 23 of the main record, Precht is quoted as saying that he was having to review State Department papers for the years 1952-54 with a view to releasing them under the Public Information Act. He thought that this could have damaging consequences for British interests as well as for the Shah. Brian Crowe made a strong pitch that we should be consulted during this exercise.

2. The PUS has now asked if you could follow up this point with the State Department and discover whether they propose to raise the matter formally with us. They have given us firm enough assurances in the past that they can and will protect against disclosure the information which HMG has given them in confidence (see the attached letter of 1975 from Ronald Spiers to Sir Thomas Brimelow). Before files are released under the Freedom of Information Act, there should be no difficulty for the Americans in first removing from them copies of any telegrams etc from us and US documents which record our views, even in the case of papers which are not strictly speaking "official information furnished by a foreign government".

3. What is not so clear is whether they could withhold American documents which referred to joint Anglo/US views about, say, the removal of Musaddiq in 1953. In the current situation, there is a good chance that public opinion will once again focus on that chapter in Iran's history. We hope therefore that the US administration would agree on a joint approach to minimise the damage which could be done to our interests by the release of US records.

.../4.



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4. I assume that you will have a word with Roger Carrick before speaking to the State Department as I am told that he handles the Embassy's general problems about the protection of British information in US hands.

R S Gorham  
Middle East Department

cc Miss Blayney, Library & Records  
Mr Streams, Security D  
Mr Cullimore, PUSD  
Mr Kerr ✓

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