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SECT 60 OF 15305

ACTION

DISTR CJCS DJS SJCS(03) J3(08) J5(02) NMCC(02) SECDEF(04)
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0229

INFO RUESHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 1351

RUFHND/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0869

RUEHKPI/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0378

RUESOR/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0566

RUESAD/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 1636

RUESRA/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 0709

RUESBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 2399

RUESKW/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 0569

RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN 6872

RUFHNA/USMISSION NATO 3861

RUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 8278

RUFHSU/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 6481

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UNCLAS PARIS 15305

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, FR, IR

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH SHAH

1. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE FRENCH WEEKLY "LES

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STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
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 IPS by: Kim Gibson Date 3/12/02

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INFORMATIONS" RELEASED JUNE 23, THE SHAH, REPLYING TO THE QUESTION WHETHER IRAN WOULD ONE DAY POSSESS A NUCLEAR WEAPON, IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "CERTAINLY, AND SOONER THAN IS BELIEVED, BUT CONTRARY TO INDIA, WE HAVE FIRST THOUGHT OF OUR PEOPLE AND THEN OF TECHNOLOGY. YOU SEE THE RESULT TODAY".

2. REFERRING TO THE FRANCO-IRANIAN AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN FEBRUARY 1974, THE SHAH SAID THAT THEY WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT EVER SIGNED BETWEEN AN OIL PRODUCING AND AN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY, AMOUNTING TO OVER THREE BILLION DOLLARS. OTHER PROJECTS BEING NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AMOUNT TO FIVE BILLION DOLLARS, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE FRENCH HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN IRAN NOW THAT "CERTAIN ARAB COUNTRIES ARE CLOSED TO THEM, ESPECIALLY SINCE MR. NIXON'S VISIT TO RIAD AND CAIRO".

3. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS ON ARMS PURCHASES, THE SHAH STATED: "THE PERSIAN GULF IS A STRATEGIC ZONE OF FIRST IMPORTANCE. THE SMALLEST SPARK AND EVERYTHING BLOWS UP. THE VERY SOPHISTICATED ARMY THAT I MAINTAIN IS MY 'FORCE DE DISSUASION ET DE FRAPPE'. WHAT DO THE FRENCH DO WITH THEIR BOMB? I DO THE SAME WITH MY RESOURCES."

4. ACCORDING TO AN AFP ITEM, THE IRANIAN EMBASSY HERE ISSUED A STATEMENT JUNE 24 DENYING THAT THE SHAH INTENDED TO GIVE IRAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS. "THIS INFORMATION IS TOTALLY INVENTED AND WITHOUT ANY BASIS WHATSOEVER", THE EMBASSY SAID, SPECIFYING THAT THE SHAH HAD NEVER MADE A STATEMENT THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED IN THAT SENSE.

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