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SECRET 242349Z JUL 79 STAFF

CITE DIRECTOR 461971, SECTION 1 OF 2.

TO: PRIORITY TEHRAN:

UNINTL RYSAT AJAJ SDLURE.

REF: DIRECTOR 459158

1. FOLLOWING IS UPDATE ON PLANNING FOR SDLURE OPERATION AND TRAVEL OF CPT W. RUTHERFORD (IBEN A) TO TEHRAN TO MAKE APPROACH TO SDLURE/I. WE TENTATIVELY PLAN TO SCHEDULE RUTHERFORD TRAVEL TO IRAN IN SECOND OR THIRD WEEK IN AUGUST. TO REFRESH STATION MEMORY ON THIS LONG DELAYED OPERATION, SDLURE/I WAS ORIGINALLY APPROACHED BY RUTHERFORD IN PARIS (JANUARY 79) DURING WHICH TIME FORMER WAS ACTIVE WITH KBOBINI ENTOURAGE. RUTHERFORD MET WITH SDLURE/I TWICE AND ALTHOUGH THE MEETINGS WERE COMPLICATED BY THE PRESENCE OF STUDENTS, JOURNALISTS AND ASSORTED RANGERS-ON, RUTHERFORD SEEMS TO HAVE MANAGED TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR A CONFIDENTIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM. SDLURE/I WAS TOLD, WITHOUT SPECIFICS OR ACTUAL NAMES BEING MENTIONED, THAT RUTHERFORD WAS EUROPEAN-BASED U.S. BUSINESSMAN WITH HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS IN BOTH THE U.S. BUSINESS AND OFFICIAL WORLDS. HE WAS APPARENTLY SUFFICIENTLY INTERESTED IN RUTHERFORD TO AGREE TO LATTER'S REQUEST TO MEET HIM PRIVATELY IF/WHEN HE TRAVELLED VIA IRAN ON A FUTURE BUSINESS TRIP TO THE FAR EAST. RUTHERFORD MENTIONED HE EXPECTED THIS TRAVEL TO TAKE PLACE IN EARLY SPRING 1979.

2. DUE TO MANIFOLD DELAYS CAUSED BY UNFOLDING OF THE IRAN SITUATION ITSELF, SDLURE/I'S OWN TRAVELS, AND THE QUESTION OF RUTHERFORD'S COVER FOR TRAVEL TO IRAN, NO CONTACT WAS MADE BETWEEN THE TWO UNTIL JUNE 12, 79. THIS WAS A TELEPHONE CALL MADE BY RUTHERFORD (OSTENSIBLY FROM BRUSSELS), SUBSTANCE OF WHICH WAS REPORTED PER REX. (DURING THIS CALL RUTHERFORD SAID HE EXPECTED TO TRAVEL TO IRAN EN ROUTE EUROPE FROM A TRIP TO INDIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND ASKED IF HE COULD SEE L/I AT THAT TIME. L/I AGREED TO THIS AND RUTHERFORD PROMISED TO CALL HIM NEARER THE TIME OF HIS ARRIVAL WITH A PRECISE ETA.)