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Planning notes

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B L Crowe Esq
Planning Staff
FCO

Your reference

Our reference

Date

13 October 1978

Dear Brian

IRAN

1. You will recall the extremely gloomy assessment Henry Precht, the Country Director for Iran, gave at the planners' meeting on 10 October.
2. Precht told Richard Muir the next day that he hoped we had not been too shocked by his analysis. He implied that in retrospect he recognised that he had been over-pessimistic. Nevertheless, he thought it important to have a clearer idea of what lay over the precipice. Precht confirmed that there is as yet no agreed inter-agency assessment on Iran. The view he gave us on 10 October was a personal one and although shared by some in the State Department, reflected neither an agreed departmental nor inter-agency view.
3. The NSC staff have made it clear that they do not share Precht's view and told us privately that they are inclined to put more weight on Sir A Parsons' assessment than those of the American Embassy in Tehran (or of the State Department). It is good to see from Tehran telegram no 678 of 12 October to the FCO that Ambassador Sullivan does in fact share Sir A Parsons's view. Henry Precht has now accepted Sullivan's view!

Yours ever,

R J Carrick

It was very good to see you. Thank you for leaving a message on your departure. Very best wishes for your next job. R