

CONFIDENTIAL

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NBP 333/2

DSR 11

Mr Streams, Security D

[Handwritten initials]

IRAN: RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

/ 1 I attach a draft letter to Washington about the subject we discussed on the telephone today. I should be grateful if you would amend the draft or add to it as you see fit. When a clean version has been prepared, I shall clear it with Mr Waldon and Mr Kerr. Such guidance as you are able to give to Mr Muir on how to play his hand would, I am sure, be most welcome.

R S Gorham
Middle East Department

14 November 1978

CONFIDENTIAL

Registry
No.

DRAFT LETTER

Type 1 +

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret,
Secret,
Confidential,
Restricted,
Unclassified.

PRIVACY MARKING

In Confidence

To:-

R S Muir WASHINGTON

From

R S Gorham

Telephone No. Ext.

Department

cc Miss Blayney
Lib & RecMr Streams
Security D

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 records 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. As we understand it, American Government policy on these things is to protect British information which is clearly identifiable as such. Thus there would be no difficulty in their removing from their own files copies of our telegrams etc before the main files are released under the Public Information Act. Where, however, would we be placed in the case of American documents which refer to a joint Anglo/American position about, say, the removal of Mussadiq in the summer of 1953? Because of recent developments, there is a good chance that public opinion in this country would once again focus upon that chapter in Iran's history and it would, therefore, be essential for us to agree on a joint approach to minimise the damage which could be done to our interests.