

Iran Says U.S. General Plotted Coup

6/3/80

By Stuart Auerbach

Washington Post Foreign Service

TEHRAN, June 2—A special U.S. Army envoy was involved in contingency planning for a military takeover in Iran to restore stability after the shah fled, according to a document released here today by Iranian authorities and alleged to be a "top secret" American cable.

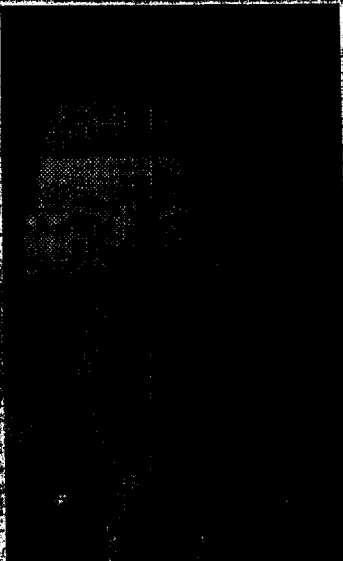
The document was made public at the opening of a government-sponsored four-day conference here today.

at the conference... public revelation... during the... of the... of the... of the...

The purported message, dated Jan. 10, 1979, was addressed to an "eyes-only" message to Gen. Alexander Haig, then commander of U.S. forces in Europe, from his chief deputy, Gen. Robert Huyser, who at the time was reported to have come here to keep the Iranian military in line and forestall a coup.

The text of the purported message made public today... that Huyser's mission... opposite. It talks twice about planning with Iranian officials for a military takeover and says Huyser was pushing the Iranian government to use the army to break a series of strikes by opponents of the shah that had paralyzed the country.

[National security council spokes-



GEN. ROBERT HUYSER

man Alfred Pagan... in Washington... this sort released... from the conference now under way in Tehran.

[Haig said through a spokesman

that he was not in the chain-of-command between Huyser and Washington at that time. The spokesman said he was not authorized to confirm or deny the authenticity of the cable or to discuss it further.

Defense Department spokesman Tom Lambert said the Pentagon had no comment on the allegations.

It was not made clear where the alleged document came from. Mansour Farhang, the Iranian ambassador to the United States, said he reported the document from the office of the Iranian Ministry of Defense. He said he had a copy of a cable dated Feb. 10, 1979, and an

document which caused the U.S. embassy to... in the embassy.

... the release of the U.S. hostages... by showing that U.S. diplomats were not entitled

... Leonard Pagan... a message sent to the opening... charged that American advisers had direct control over our destiny.

Leonard Pagan's attorney, Leonard

See IRAN, A11, Col. 1

Iran Charges U.S. Discussed Military Coup

IRAN, From A1

Weinglass, one of 10 Americans who defied a U.S. ban on travel to Iran to attend the conference, said of the purported cable from Huyser to Haig, "I think the message is very damning evidence if borne out by the documents, of U.S. interference in Iran's internal affairs."

The Huyser mission to Iran came in a turbulent period after the shah was forced out of the country by a series of violent demonstrations against him and just before Khomeini returned triumphantly on Feb. 1 to proclaim the Islamic revolutionary government that now rules here.

During that period, the shah left Iran in the hands of his appointed prime minister, Shahpour Bakhtiar, whom the United States regarded as a moderating influence but whom Khomeini refused to accept as head of government.

It appears from the purported message that Huyser was urging the Iranian military to take a more active role in supporting the Bakhtiar government — including using the army as strike breakers.

"The actions I am pressing," Huyser purportedly cabled Haig, "are to break the strike by the use of military in customs, oil and banking. We have made some progress in all three areas but have a long way to go."

"If that fails," the document said, apparently referring to Huyser's alleged urging that Bakhtiar make increasing use of the military to hold power, "my guidance to them is that we must go to a straight military takeover."

"We are working on this planning on a high priority, 24-hour-per-day basis," he said later in the message. It was not clear in either reference whether a takeover of the government or merely a takeover of the struck oil fields was meant.

Still later in the document, Huyser purportedly said the military has "a fairly high capability to do the job," apparently referring to the unspecified takeover.

"In fact," the document continued, "we are planning for that option if necessary. The point I want Washington to understand is the military does not have the capability, after doing the initial job, of picking up and running a sophisticated government like they now have established."

In fact, the military proved to be no match for the popular fervor of the Islamic revolution. On Jan. 28, four days after the date on the alleged cable, 100,000 Khomeini backers marched through the streets of Tehran in defiance of a martial law ban. Troops fired and killed at least 15.

From that point on, the power of the Iranian military eroded as base after base turned themselves over to the revolutionary forces.

The purported Huyser message said that if Khomeini returned soon, as he did, "I believe there would be a big upheaval and then things would go to hell in a handbasket."

A phrase in the document that Iranians today interpreted as a U.S. assassination plot on Khomeini said that some factions — probably leftists — would like a complete civil war in Iran. "One good way to trigger it," the document said, "is to have Khomeini return and be assassinated. Then emotions would take over and I believe the result would be civil war."

The month-long Huyser mission to Iran has been shrouded in controversy and mystery. It had been thought that Iran's military, the best-equipped in the area, could keep the shah in power. Late last month, in an interview from his exile palace in Cairo with Washington Post Co. board chairman Katharine Graham, the deposed shah regretted not using military force to put down demonstrations against him.

In the end, however, the troops either refused or were ordered not to fire on demonstrators.

The conference is being attended by about 400 delegates from non-government groups around the world. Members of groups representing themselves as coming from conservative Arab states, such as Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, sat in the conference hall with headress wrapped around their faces and sunglasses over their eyes so they could not be identified.

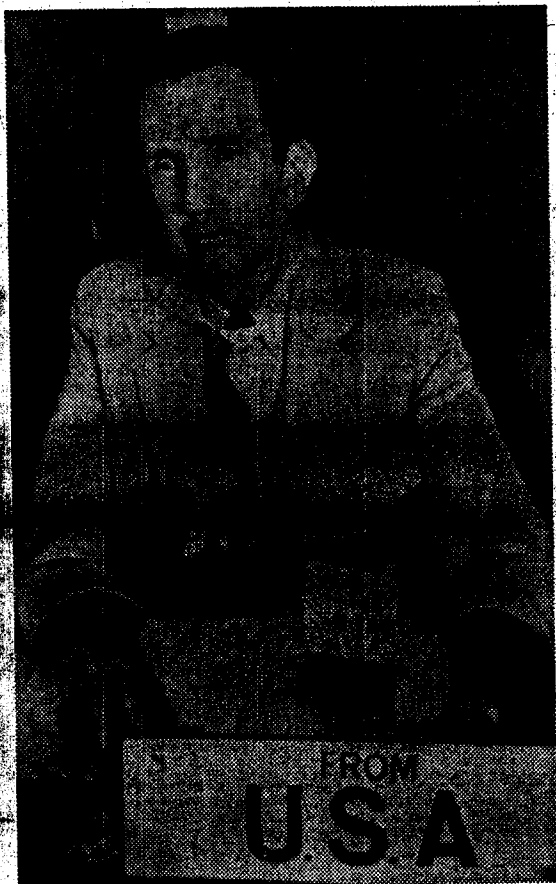
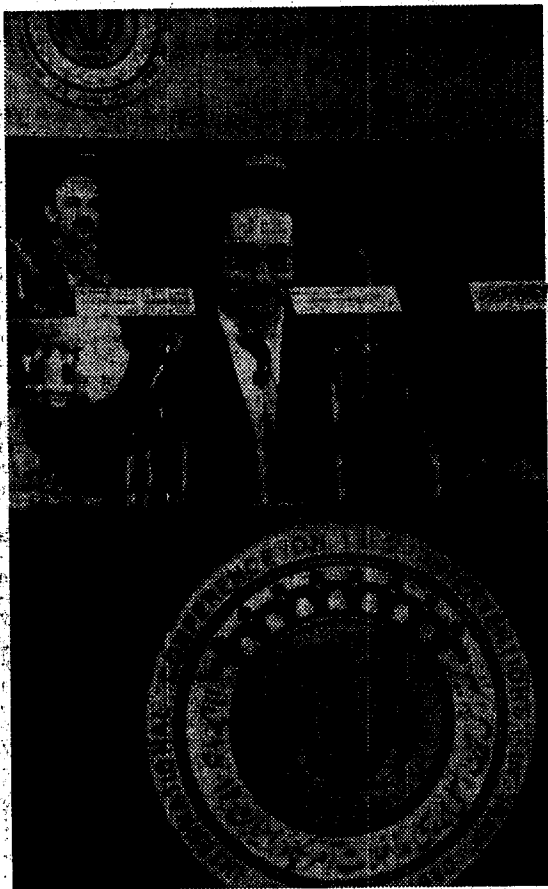
The American delegation is headed by former attorney general Ramsey

Clark, who has supported the Khomeini government from the start.

With him in the delegation is John Gerasst, a political scientist and former Newsweek writer, who was prosecuted by the Justice Department when Clark was attorney general for traveling to Hanoi during the Vietnam War.

[State Department officials said the Carter administration will "decide in due course" whether to prosecute Clark and the other Americans for defying the U.S. ban on travel to Iran. White House press secretary Jody Powell added that "there are civil and criminal penalties available" to use against the ten.]

Iranian authorities said the conference, called by Khomeini to protest the aborted U.S. hostage rescue mission, had nothing to do with the release of the hostages. Clark, however, expressed hope that greater understanding as a result of the meeting will make it easier to obtain the Americans' release.



Associated Press Photos

Iranian President Bani-Sadr, left, opens the conference on U.S. intervention in Iran as Ramsey Clark listens.

Iranian Documents Show Apparent Spying on CIA

By Stuart Auerbach

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TEHRAN, June 2—Iranian authorities released a series of documents today designed to prove that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency really ran the deposed shah's dreaded secret police organization, SAVAK. Instead, the documents appear to show that SAVAK spent a great deal of time spying on the CIA, including bugging the station chief's telephone.

One purported six-year-old memo from SAVAK's files told the organization's general director of the conversation heard while "controlling the telephone of [CIA station chief] Arthur Callaghan's home."

Another SAVAK report told how Callaghan became disgusted with the way American officials were treating the CIA. "As a result," the alleged SAVAK memo quoted Callaghan as saying, "I have lost inter-

est in working in this organization and have resigned."

Western correspondents resident in Teheran at the time knew Callaghan to be the CIA station chief.

Another memo discussed an Iranian who worked in security at the U.S. Embassy here, but who was not happy with his job. He was described as being trusted by the CIA, and SAVAK said it was working to win him over to get information about the people in whom Americans were interested in Iran.

When Callaghan left Iran, SAVAK placed a long report in his file including a list of his Iranian contacts and friends. Among the people named on the list were two listed as British intelligence officers—Desmond Harney, who worked as manager of the Morgan Grenfell Bank, and Berkley Millen, who was listed as the chief of British intelligence in Iran.

Pentagon Creates Panel To Study Rescue Attempt

Associated Press

The Pentagon yesterday announced creation of a special panel of retired and active senior officers, including the commander of the 1970 Son Tay prison camp raid in North Vietnam, "to conduct a broad examination" of the ill-fated attempt to rescue U.S. hostages from Iran.

The five-man group, none of whom was connected with the mission, will recommend "improvements in U.S. counter-terrorist capabilities," the Pentagon said.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff created the panel to make a study separate from the normal after-action review being conducted by officers.

The Pentagon denied that the creation of the special group is an attempt to whitewash possible culpability in the planning and execution of the April 24 mission, which ended in the Iranian desert after mechanical problems disabled three of eight helicopters, leaving too few to carry out the mission.

Officials said the group will have access to information that Defense Secretary Harold Brown has withheld from Congress.

Heading the panel is retired Adm. James L. Holloway, chief of naval operations until two years ago.

Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Leroy J. Manor, who directed the Son Tay mission in 1970 from a command post outside of North Vietnam also will be on the panel. He played a major role in planning that raid on the prison camp, which failed because the North Vietnamese had removed all U.S. prisoners before the commando group landed.

The three other members of the review group are retired Army Lt. Gen. Samuel V. Wilson, former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency; Air Force Maj. Gen. J. L. Piotrowski, and Marine Maj. Gen. A. M. Gray Jr.

Officials said the group has not been assigned a time limit in which to complete its review.