Department of State

TELEGRAM

O 091237Z DEC 72
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0535
BT
TO R.S. WET TEHRAN 7389

SUBJECT: ENHANCE PLUS

REF: A. STATE 219119 B. STATE 220718; C. TEHRAN 7287

1. DURING AUDIENCE WITH SHAH DECEMBER 8, I HANDED HIM PAPER
SUMMARIZING POSITION CONTAINED IN STATE REFTELS. TEXT BY SEPTEL.

2. AFTER READING PAPER, SHAH WAS AFFIRMATIVE IN HIS INITIAL
RESPONSE, BUT NATURALLY SAID HE WISHED TO TAKE OUT PROPOSALS
UNDER ADVISEMENT. HE WAS ESPECIALLY APPRECIATIVE OF OUR EFFORTS
TO GIVE IRAN ACCELERATED DELIVERY OF F-5ES.

3. HE OFFERED ONE SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT. ON PROPOSAL TO
LEASE EIGHT F-4DS, SHAH MADE QUITE CLEAR HE DID NOT WANT
D MODELS. I EXPLAINED THAT WE FELT D MODEL WAS BETTER
SUITED FOR IRAN'S CAPABILITY TO UTILIZE NEW AIRCRAFT AT
THIS TIME AND THAT EARLY INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL E
MODELS MIGHT DISTURB CAREFUL PLANNING AND TRAINING FOR F-4E
PROGRAM BEGINNING IN MAY 1973. RECOMMENDATIONS THAT EARLIER LEASE OF F-4ES, I RECALLED HOW TRANSFER OF THOSE
AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN DIFFICULT DECISION FOR USAF, REDUCING NUMBER
OF E MODELS AVAILABLE FOR ITS ACTIVE INVENTORY.

4. HOWEVER, SHAH WAS PERSISTENT AND FIRM IN NOT PREFERING
D MODELS, AND, AS AUTHORIZED, I SAID E MODELS COULD BE MADE
AVAILABLE IF HE DESIRED. SHAH COMMENTED THAT ADDITION OF EIGHT E
MODELS TO THOSE NOW ON LEASE AT MEHRABAD WOULD GIVE IRAN ANOTHER
FULL SQUADRON OF F-4ES. IF THIS IS SHAH'S THINKING, IT MAY
BE THAT HE WILL LATER ASK US TO EXTEND LEASE ON F-4ES PRESENTLY
IN COUNTRY IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN COMPLETE SQUADRON UNTIL 32 F-5ES
ARRIVE.

5. AS TO CONTINGENT LEASE OF F-4S, I TOLD HIM AIRCRAFT COULD BE
EITHER D OR E MODELS, DEPENDING ON CONSULTATIONS AT TIME IRAN
MADE REQUEST.
6. IN CONCLUDING DISCUSSION SHAH EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ESPECIALLY FORTHCOMING MEASURES WE HAD TAKEN IN THIS EXERCISE TO MEET IRAN'S NEEDS. HE IS AWARE OF WHAT ACCELERATION OF F-5S AND TRANSFER OF F-4S MEAN TO USAF. I WISH TO COMMEND THOSE WHO HAVE HAD TO GRAPPLE WITH DIFFICULT IMPLICATIONS THIS EXERCISE AND TAKE HARD DECISIONS WHICH FORMED OUR POSITION. AT THIS STAGE, I BELIEVE, YOU HAVE MADE VERY POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO OUR RELATIONS WITH IMPORTANT ALLY AND FRIEND.

XGDS-3.

FARLAND