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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SYSTEM II
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OUTGOING

PAGE 01 OF 02 THE WHITE HOUSE 2103
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NLRR MO7-045 #31680
BY CU NARADATE 3/5/08

TO CABINET OFFICE

~~SECRET~~ VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS WH02103

MARCH 16, 1984

DEAR MARGARET,

I READ YOUR LETTER OF YESTERDAY WITH GREAT INTEREST AND WANT TO CONFIRM THAT WE ARE INDEED CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF ESCALATION IN THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR. WE ARE JUST COMPLETING A REVIEW OF ESCALATION SCENARIOS AND THEIR POSSIBLE IMPACT ON WESTERN INTERESTS WITH A VIEW TO IDENTIFYING THE POLITICAL-MILITARY AND ECONOMIC RESPONSES THAT MAY BE NECESSARY. OUR WORK IN THIS REGARD SHOULD BE WELL ALONG BY THE TIME YOUR TEAM ARRIVES AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THESE CONTINGENCIES WITH MR. LUCE AND HIS PARTY.

I FULLY SUPPORT YOUR PLANS FOR ENHANCING THE READINESS OF A MINE COUNTERMEASURES FORCE. THIS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD IMPROVING OUR COLLECTIVE ABILITY TO RESPOND TO ANY ATTEMPT TO CLOSE THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ. TO ANTICIPATE OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. LUCE AND HIS TEAM, WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS AGAINST THE PRODUCTION AND TRANSSHIPMENT FACILITIES IN THE GULF ARAB STATES PROPER. I NEEDN'T TELL YOU THE DISASTROUS IMPACT SUCH ACTIONS MIGHT HAVE ON THE WORLD ENERGY SITUATION, THE WORLD

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PAGE 02 OF 02 THE WHITE HOUSE 2103 DTG: 161551Z MAR 84 PSN: 044225

ECONOMY, THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM, AND THE STABILITY OF KEY OIL-PRODUCING STATES IN THE REGION.

IN CLOSING LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT WE WELCOME THE TIMELY VISIT BY YOUR TEAM AND REAFFIRM TO YOU THE IMPORTANCE I PERSONALLY ATTACH TO CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT ON THESE CRITICAL MATTERS.

SINCERELY,

RON

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