

S E C R E T

APPENDIX C

Foreign Office Memorandum
of 23 July 1953
from British Ambassador Makins
to
Assistant Under Secretary of State Smith

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SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION

"Her Majesty's Government have noted the State Department's views as got out in a report on the conversation between Mr. Byroade and Mr. Bealey on 7 July, and have much sympathy for them.

"The overriding consideration is that the whole question of compensation must be left to the impartial arbitration of an international tribunal. Furthermore the terms of any future arrangements must be such as not to appear to provide a reward for the tearing up of contractual obligations or to disturb the pattern of world oil prices. Subject to this Her Majesty's Government are prepared to go to the utmost to help...with the problem of presenting an agreement to the public' locally. They are also convinced that the Company, who have not been consulted, will adopt a generous attitude as regards methods and duration of payments as regards any compensation awarded to them.

"The answers therefore to the specific questions raised in the report from Washington Embassy are as follows:

"(a) The United Kingdom can do without this oil, although it would be an advantage to have it flowing into its traditional markets [the UK] once more.

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Her Majesty's Government are, however, anxious to dispose of the dispute which poisons their relations with the country concerned and is a disturbing element in the area as a whole. They would therefore 'be ready to cooperate' with a new government in trying to reach an agreement, provided that the principles referred to in paragraph 2 above are safeguarded.

"(b) Her Majesty's Government take the wording of the plan to mean that the initiative would be left to the future Prime Minister both as to the priority of an oil agreement in relation to his general programme and as to the nature of it. They hope he would agree to look at the February proposals, and they would of course 'help him in regard to the presentation of the agreement.' If he had any alternative proposals, Her Majesty's Government would consider them with equal sympathy, subject always to the principles mentioned above being safeguarded."

SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION

[The C.I.A.'s secret history of the 1953 coup in Iran was a nearly 200-page, typewritten document, comprising the author's own account of the operation and a set of planning documents that he attached to the file. The New York Times is publishing the introduction and the planning documents on the World Wide Web. But the newspaper decided not to publish the main text after consulting with prominent historians who believed that there was a serious risk that some of those named in the C.I.A. history as foreign agents might face retribution in Iran if their names were made public. Certain names in the documents that are being published have also been deleted.]

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