

December 10, 1979

AMERICAN DELEGATION IN TEHRAN EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR IRAN

AN AMERICAN DELEGATION WHICH ARRIVED IN TEHRAN ON DECEMBER 8, 1979 ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

WE ARE A DIVERSE GROUP OF AMERICANS WHO HAVE TEMPORARILY LEFT OUR JOBS AND FAMILIES TO TRAVEL TO IRAN TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE SUPPORT AND CONCERN IN THIS HOUR OF CRISIS. WE, LIKE MANY OTHER AMERICANS, KNOW FULL WELL THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION WAS PROVOKED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WHEN IT DELIBERATELY BROUGHT THE MURDEROUS EX-SHAH TO THE UNITED STATES. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE IN ADVANCE OF WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS PROVOCATION TO THE IRANIAN PEOPLE WOULD BE.

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SOLIDARITY WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLES OF THE IRANIAN PEOPLE AGAINST U.S. IMPERIALISM AND ITS POLICIES OF "INVESTMENTS" WHICH DESTROYED IRAN'S INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE, OF CREATING THE POLICE APPARATUS OF THE SAVAK, AND OF FORCING IRAN TO SPEND ITS NATIONAL WEALTH ON U.S. MANUFACTURED MILITARY HARDWARE. ALL OF THIS WAS DONE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF AMERICAN PEOPLE.

WE DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE RETURN OF THE EX-SHAH, TOGETHER WITH ALL OTHERS WHO HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES AGAINST THE IRANIAN PEOPLE, AND WHO HAVE FLED TO THE UNITED STATES TO AVOID THE RIGHTEOUS WRATH OF THE IRANIAN PEOPLE.

WE VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE ALL MILITARY ACTIONS AND THREATS OF MILITARY ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES AGAINST IRAN, AS WELL AS CONTINUED SPYING, SABOTAGE AND ATTEMPTED COUPS. WE DENOUNCE THE CYNICAL ATTEMPTS BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO USE THIS INCIDENT OF ITS OWN CREATION TO WHIP UP HYSTERIA AGAINST IRANIANS LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES. WE DENOUNCE THE VILIFICATION OF THE IMAM KHOMEINI IN THE AMERICAN NEWS MEDIA. AND WE DENOUNCE THIS ATTEMPT TO MISLEAD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE INTO SUPPORTING FURTHER MOVES TOWARD

WORLD WAR.

WE DENY THE ASSERTIONS BY THE AMERICAN PRESS AND GOVERNMENT THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE UNITED BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES. THE DOZENS OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT BY AMERICANS FOR IRAN'S JUST POSITION SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. THERE IS NO CONFLICT OF INTERESTS BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

WE WISH TO STATE CLEARLY THAT OUR GROUP HAS COME IN FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY AND WE ARE NOT HERE TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE IRANIAN PEOPLE, AND WE ARE DEFINITELY NOT IN IRAN TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE RELEASE OF ANY U.S. EMBASSY PERSONNEL.

WHILE WE ARE HERE, WE INTEND TO EDUCATE OURSELVES IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION SO THAT WE CAN TAKE BACK TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE TRUTH THAT IS BEING DENIED TO THEM. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT IF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION, THEY WILL SUPPORT THE JUST POSITION OF THE IRANIAN PEOPLE.

THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION ARE:

CLARK KISSINGER, AN ELECTRICIAN FROM CHICAGO. HE WAS A LEADER IN THE 1960'S STUDENT MOVEMENT AGAINST THE U.S. WAR IN VIETNAM.

CAROL DOWNER, A DIRECTOR OF THE FEMINIST WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER IN LOS ANGELES AND A FOUNDER OF THE SELF HELP MOVEMENT IN WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE. SHE IS THE MOTHER OF SIX CHILDREN AND HAS TWO GRANDCHILDREN.

FRANKLIN GLENN, AN ATTORNEY FROM LOS ANGELES WHO HAS DEFENDED A NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. HE IS A VETERAN OF THE VIETNAM WAR

REBECCA CHALKER OF TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA AND LOS ANGELES. SHE IS A HEALTH WORKER AND WRITER.

FRED HANKS, AN AUTO WORKER FROM DETROIT. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR AND WAS AMONG THOSE ARRESTED FOR SEIZING THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT AND HANGING OUT A BANNER READING, "U.S. IMPERIALISM GET YOUR BLOODY HANDS OFF IRAN."

LISA RADCLIFFE, A STUDENT FROM BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA. SHE IS A LONG-TIME SUPPORTER OF THE STRUGGLE OF THE IRANIAN PEOPLE AGAINST U.S. IMPERIALISM.

EMBASSY
OF THE
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC
OF
IRAN

سفارت جمهوری اسلامی ایران