

Iran, 12/79

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Panama

Tehran, December 21, 1979

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama and in connection with the transfer by the United States of America of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to Panama, wishes to draw the attention of the people and the government of Panama to the position of the people and the government of Iran concerning this subject.

The Iranian people have always sympathized with and admired the constant struggles of the Latin American peoples against the hegemony and imperialism of the United States on their continent. This was true for the struggle of the Panamanian people to recover their legitimate sovereignty over the Panama Canal. Confronted with this just struggle, the government of the United States continues to perpetrate plots in Latin American countries and to exert various pressures on the governments concerned, including especially your own, given the importance of the American military and economic interests in the Panama Canal Zone and the sad example of Chile demonstrates that the American government eschews no means to assure its selfish interests.

However, the courageous peoples of Latin America, more and more aware of the crimes committed by American imperialism in their countries, have been able to find in the solidarity of fraternal peoples and countries a new force in the

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struggle for their independence. The victorious combat of the people of Nicaragua against Somoza, a corrupt dictator beholden to American interests, is a glorious example.

But the valiant Sandinistas would not by themselves have been able to overthrow the hated dictatorship so soon without the aid and support of fraternal peoples and countries, particularly Panama.

Yet, so far as the deposed Shah of Iran is concerned, a corrupt and hated dictator above all others, and while the Mexican people, revolted by his crimes, refused to welcome him back, the government of Panama had to bow to the pressures of the United States and accept the transfer of the deposed Shah onto its soil.

Your people, in turn, have expressed their indignation at the presence of this criminal, and the street demonstrations of recent days are only the first signs. But whatever the pressures exerted on your government by the United States might be, we are persuaded that you will not allow yourselves to be separated from all peoples who struggle against the hegemony of the United States.

It may be that the Panamanian government, confronted by public opinion for the extradition of the Shah, believes itself constrained by the Latin American tradition concerning political asylum.

However, in accordance with Article 14-2 of the Univer-

sal Declaration of the Rights of Man, the right of political asylum cannot be invoked in the case of prosecution authentically founded on a common law crime. Is there any need to recall that the crimes, massacres, and tortures perpetrated by the deposed Shah of Iran were of such a magnitude that they can in no way be justified by political motives?

All the reports drawn up during these past ten years by non-governmental organizations of worldwide repute, and all the studies conducted by various impartial organs unanimously conclude that the deposed Shah and his accomplices were guilty of flagrant, massive and continual violations of the Rights of Man in Iran.

By tens of thousands the families of Iranian martyrs can bear witness to the murders and tortures perpetrated during the rein of the Shah at his direct order on that of individuals assigned by him to this ignoble task.

His crimes are of a scope and an enormity such that the international community, in its entirety is involved, and it is not possible to advance the pretext of the lack of a treaty of extradition between two particular countries in order to offer him asylum and protection.

On the same hand, the crimes committed by Mohammad Reza Pahlavi fall under the definition of "crimes against humanity," such as that formulated on the basis of the Nuremberg principles by a unanimous doctrine and jurisprudence under the Commission of International Law of the United Nations Organization.

On the other hand, to offer asylum to individuals guilty of crimes against humanity is to mock international standards and morality; it is to encourage all tyrants and criminals of this world and to stain irremediably the noble tradition of granting political asylum to those who truly fight for liberty and justice.

In demanding the extradition of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the Iranian people do not seek to quench a thirst for vengeance, but legitimately desire that the deposed Shah answer to his crimes and unmask all the plots which enabled him, during 25 years, to establish a veritable organized terror and to smother the voice of the people in the somber prisons of Savak.

In demanding this extradition, the Iranian people wish to demonstrate that oppressed nations of the world will no longer allow imperialist powers to play with their destiny, scorn their national pride, forge coups d'etat at the whim of their interests or impose upon helpless people tyrants servilely devoted to foreign orders.

In this anti-imperialist struggle, all oppressed peoples should be united, and we hope that the people and the government of Panama will understand the true direction of this fight and will refuse to submit to the diktats of the United States of America.

The Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran takes this occasion to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama the expression of its

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highest consideration.



MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D'IRAN

Téhéran, le 21 Decembre 1979

Le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères de la République Islamique de l'Iran présente ses compliments au Ministère des Affaires Étrangères de la République de Panama, et en relation avec le transfert par les Etats-Unis d'Amérique de Mohammad Reza Pahlavi au Panama, tient à attirer l'attention du peuple et du gouvernement du Panama sur la position du peuple et du gouvernement de l'Iran à cet égard.

Le peuple Iranien a toujours sympathisé avec et admiré les luttes constantes des peuples latino-américains contre l'hégémonisme et l'impérialisme des Etats Unis sur leur continent. Ainsi en est-il de la lutte du peuple panaméen pour recouvrir sa légitime souveraineté sur le Canal de Panama. Face à cette juste lutte, le gouvernement des Etats Unis n'a cessé de perpétrer des complots dans les pays latino-américains et d'exercer des pressions diverses sur les gouvernements concernés y compris et surtout le vôtre, étant donné l'importance des intérêts militaires et économiques américains dans la zone du Canal de Panama. Et le triste exemple du Chili démontre que le gouvernement américain ne recule devant aucun procédé pour assurer ses intérêts égoïstes.

Cependant les courageux peuples d'Amérique Latine, de plus en plus conscients des crimes commis par l'impérialisme américain dans leur pays, ont su trouver dans la solidarité avec les peuples et pays frères, une force nouvelle dans la lutte pour leur indépendance. Le combat victorieux du peuple du Nicaragua contre Somoza, dictateur corrompu et asservi aux intérêts américains en est un glorieux exemple.

Mais les vaillants Sandinistes n'auraient pu à eux seuls renverser de sitôt la dictature haïe sans l'aide et l'appui des peuples et pays frères, en particulier le Panama.

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MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
DE LA REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D'IRAN

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Pourtant en ce qui concerne le chah déchu d'Iran, dictateur corrompu et haï entre tous, alors que le peuple mexicain révolté par ses crimes, s'est refusé à l'accueillir à nouveau, le gouvernement du Panama a dû céder aux pressions des Etats Unis et accepter le transfert du chah déchu sur son sol.

Votre peuple à son tour a exprimé son indignation envers la présence de ce criminel, et les manifestations de rue de ces derniers jours n'en sont que les premiers signes. Mais quelles que soient les pressions exercées par les Etats Unis sur votre gouvernement, nous sommes persuadés que vous n'accepterez pas de vous séparer de votre peuple et de tous les peuples qui luttent contre l'hégémonie des Etats-Unis.

Par ailleurs, le gouvernement panaméen, face à la pression de l'opinion Publique pour l'extradition du chah, pourrait se croire limité par la tradition latino-américaine concernant l'asile politique

Cependant, en conformité avec l'article 14 § 2 de la Déclaration Universelle des Droits de l'Homme; le droit d'asile ne peut être invoqué dans le cas de poursuites réellement fondées sur un crime de droit commun. Est-il besoin de rappeler que les crimes, massacres et tortures perpétrés par le chah déchu d'Iran furent d'une ampleur telle, qu'ils ne peuvent en aucune manière être justifiés par des motifs politiques

Tous les rapports établis ces dix dernières années par des Organisations non gouvernementales de réputation mondiale, toutes les études menées par divers organismes impartiaux, concluent à l'unanimité que le chah déchu et ses complices se sont rendu coupables de violations flagrantes, massives et continuelles des Droits de l'Homme

en Iran



MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
DE LA REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D'IRAN

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C'est par dizaines de milliers que les familles des martyrs Iraniens peuvent témoigner des meurtres et tortures perpétrés durant le règne du chah sur son ordre direct ou celui des personnes assignées par lui à cette tâche ignoble.

Ses crimes sont d'une portée, d'une envergure telles que la Communauté internationale dans son ensemble est concernée, et l'on ne saurait avancer le prétexte du manque de traité d'extradition entre deux pays particuliers pour lui offrir asile et protection.

D'une part, en effet, les crimes commis par Mohammad Reza Pahlavi entrent dans la définition des "crimes contre l'humanité" telle que formulée sur la base des principes de Nuremberg, par une doctrine et une jurisprudence unanimes, dont la commission de Droit International de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. D'autre part, offrir l'asile à des personnes coupables de crimes contre l'humanité, c'est bafouer les normes et la moralité internationales, c'est encourager tous les tyrans et criminels de ce monde, enfin c'est entâcher irrémédiablement la noble tradition de l'octroi de l'asile politique à ceux qui luttent véritablement pour la Liberté et la Justice.

En exigeant l'extradition de Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, le peuple Iranien ne cherche pas à assouvir une soif de vengeance, mais réclame légitimement que le chah déchu réponde de ses crimes et dévoile tous les complots qui lui permirent pendant plus de vingt cinq ans d'établir une véritable terreur organisée et d'étouffer la voix du peuple dans les sombres prisons de la Savak.

En exigeant cette extradition, le peuple Iranien tient à démontrer que les nations opprimées du monde ne permettront plus aux puissances impérialistes de se jouer de leur sort, de mépriser leur fierté nationale, de forger des coups d'Etat au gré de leur intérêts et d'imposer aux peuples démunis des tyrans servilement dévoués aux ordres étrangers

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MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
DE LA REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D'IRAN

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Dans cette lutte anti impérialiste, tous les peuples opprimés doivent être solidaires, et nous espérons que le peuple et le gouvernement du Panama comprendront le vrai sens de ce combat et refuseront de se soumettre aux diktats des Etats Unis d'Amérique.

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la République Islamique de l'Iran saisit cette occasion pour renouveler au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la République du Panama, l'expression de sa haute considération.

*Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
République de Panama.*

His Excellency
General Omar Torijos
Republic of Panama

Tehran, December 21, 1979

Excellency,

The Revolutionary Council and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressing respectively the President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama, have this day officially submitted the request of the Government of Iran for the extradition of Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, recently transferred to Panama.

However, knowing your prestigious background of anti-imperialist struggle and your faith in the cause of independence, liberty, and justice, I wish to address personally to you the appeal of the Iranian people, which I am convinced you will understand and support.

In effect, whether in Panama, where by the force of your will and the perseverance of your struggle you were able to break the vise of U.S. hegemony and affirm the national sovereignty of your country over the Panama Canal; or in Nicaragua, a domain reserved at the time for American imperialism, where your contribution to the overthrow of Somoza, a corrupt dictator beholden to foreign interests, was preeminent; or even throughout the Latin American continent, you have always proved to be at the side of oppressed and exploited peoples in their struggles against the imperialism of the

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United States of America and the dictatorship of its lackeys.

You can therefore understand, Excellency, better than anyone else, the profound sense and thrust of the Iranian Revolution, a formidable revolt of a united people against a corrupt and criminal dictatorship in the service of imperialist interests.

The man whom the Iranian people seek in order that he be judged and held accountable for his crimes is not a political refugee; his rein represents more than 25 years of organized terror, of murders, of tortures, of pillages⁶ of national wealth, and betrayal of the people; I am convinced that you will not allow him to be received and protected in the same manner as the valiant combatants for liberty and justice on behalf of whom the noble tradition of political asylum was established.

I therefore respectfully ask you to use your prestige and influence in order that the process for the extradition of the deposed Shah can be initiated without delay.

Public proceedings held in Panama to determine the extradition of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, while unmasking yet again the multiple crimes committed by the deposed Shah and revealing certain elements of the plots perpetrated by the United States and the CIA to impose on the Iranian people this man beholden to their interests, would certainly mobilize public opinion, both in Panama and throughout the whole world, against all tyrants and dictators who are imposed on helpless peoples by

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selfish imperialist interests protected by so-called Rights of Man, which they themselves so often mock in the course of history.

Excellency, the role which you might assume in this matter could be critical for the future of relations between imperialist powers and developing countries, and for the cause of independence, liberty, and justice in the countries of Latin America, Asia, and elsewhere.

Hoping that you will spare no effort in this direction, I ask you to accept, Excellency, the expression of my highest consideration.

Sadegh Ghotbzadeh
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Member of the Revolutionary Council of
the Islamic Republic of Iran



MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
DE LA REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D'IRAN

Téhéran, le 21 decembre 197

Excellence,

Le Conseil Révolutionnaire et le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la République Islamique de l'Iran, s'adressant respectivement au Président et au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la République de Panama, ont à ce jour soumis officiellement la demande du Gouvernement de l'Iran pour l'extradition de Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, récemment transféré au Panama.

Cependant, connaissant votre passé prestigieux de lutte anti-impérialiste et votre foi dans la cause de l'indépendance, de la liberté et de la justice, je tiens à vous adresser personnellement la requête du peuple Iranien dont je suis convaincu que vous saurez la comprendre et la défendre.

En effet, que ce soit au Panama où par la force de votre volonté et la persévérance de votre lutte, vous avez su briser le carcan de l'hégémonie des Etats Unis et affirmer la souveraineté nationale de votre pays sur le canal de Panama; au Nicaragua, domaine alors réservé de l'impérialisme américain, où votre contribution au renversement de Somoza, dictateur corrompu et asservi aux intérêts étrangers a été capitale, ou même sur l'ensemble du continent latino-américain; vous vous êtes toujours affirmé aux côtés des peuples opprimés et exploités dans leurs luttes contre l'impérialisme des Etats Unis d'Amérique et la dictature de ses valets.

Vous pouvez donc Excellence, mieux que quiconque, comprendre le sens profond et la portée de la Révolution Iranienne, formidable révolte d'un peuple uni contre une dictature corrompue et criminelle aux services des intérêts impérialistes.

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MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
DE LA REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D'IRAN

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L'homme que le peuple Iranien réclame pour qu'il soit jugé et réponde de ses crimes n'est pas un réfugié politique, son règne représente plus de vingt cinq ans de terreur organisée, de meurtres, de tortures, de pillages des biens nationaux et de trahison du peuple; je suis convaincu que vous ne sauriez accepter de le recevoir et le protéger au même titre que les vaillants combattants pour la liberté et la justice pour qui la noble tradition de l'asile politique fut établie.

Je vous prie donc respectueusement de bien vouloir user de votre prestige et de votre influence pour que la procédure tendant à l'extradition du chah déchu soit entamée au plus tôt.

Le procès public qui aurait lieu au Panama pour décider de l'extradition de Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, en dévoilant une fois de plus les multiples crimes commis par le chah déchu, en révélant certains éléments des complots perpétrés par les Etats Unis et la C I A pour imposer au peuple Iranien cet homme asservi à leurs intérêts, saura certainement mobiliser l'opinion publique tant au Panama que dans le monde entier, contre tous les tyrans et dictateurs imposés aux peuples démunis par les égoïstes intérêts impérialistes et protégés par eux au nom des soi-disants Droits de l'Homme, par eux mêmes tant bafoués au cours de l'histoire.

Excellence, le rôle que vous assumeriez dans cette affaire pourrait être déterminant pour l'avenir des relations entre les puissances impérialistes et les pays en développement, et la cause de l'indépendance, de la liberté et de la justice dans les pays d'Amérique Latine, d'Asie et d'ailleurs.



MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
DE LA REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D'IRAN

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*En espérant que vous n'épargnerez pas vos efforts dans
cette voie, veuillez agréer, Excellence l'expression de ma plus
haute considération.*

*Sadegh Ghotbzadeh
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
Membre du Conseil Révolutionnaire de la République Islamique
de l'Iran*

*Son Excellence General Omar Torijos
République de Panama.*

His Excellency
President Royo
President of the Republic of Panama
Republic of Panama

Tehran, December 21, 1979

Excellency,

I have the honor, on behalf of the Revolutionary Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to submit in this letter the official request of the Government of Iran for the extradition of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, recently transferred to Panama.

In this connection, a note, of which a copy is attached briefly setting forth the principal arguments underlying our extradition request, is addressed this day to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama.

The legal documents and all material relevant to the extradition process to be initiated in Panama will soon be submitted to you, in accordance with the directions of the competent authorities of your country in this matter.

Familiar with and respecting the long anti-imperialist struggle of the people and Government of Panama, thanks to which full national sovereignty over the Panama Canal was finally able to be affirmed; hailing Panama's capital contribution to the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship and of his corrupt regime, beholden to the imperialist interests of the United States; admiring, finally, the daily battle which you

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lead at the side of oppressed and exploited peoples for the cause of justice and liberty in the Latin American continent the Iranian people do not doubt that despite the pressures exerted by American Imperialism, the people and Government of Panama will not tolerate much longer the presence on their soil of the deposed Shah of Iran, a tyrant and criminal above all others.

The Revolutionary Council of Iran therefore respectfully asks you, Mister President, to accede to the extradition request which is submitted to you and, in the exercise of your constitutional powers, to hasten the process.

I ask you, Mister President, to believe in the expression of my highest consideration.

Sadegh Ghotbzadeh
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Member of the Revolutionary Council
of the Islamic Republic of Iran



MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
DE LA REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D'IRAN

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Téhéran, le 21 décembre 1977

Excellence,

J'ai l'honneur, de la part du Conseil Révolutionnaire de la République Islamique de l'Iran, de vous soumettre par la présente, la requête officielle du Gouvernement de l'Iran pour l'extradition de Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, récemment transféré au Panama.

A ce sujet, une note dont copie est ci-jointe, et exposant brièvement les principaux arguments déterminant notre demande d'extradition, est adressée à ce jour au ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la République de Panama.

Les documents légaux et toutes pièces utiles à la procédure d'extradition qui serait entamée au Panama vous seront soumis prochainement, suivant les indications des autorités compétentes de votre pays en cette affaire.

Connaissant et respectant la longue lutte anti-imperialiste du peuple et du gouvernement de Panama, grâce à laquelle sa pleine souveraineté nationale sur le canal de Panama a pu enfin être affirmée, saluant la contribution capitale du Panama au renversement de la dictature de Somoza et de son régime corrompu et asservi aux intérêts impérialistes des Etats Unis, admirant enfin le combat quotidien que vous menez aux côtés des peuples opprimés et exploités pour la cause de la Justice et de la Liberté dans le continent latino-américain; le peuple Iranien ne doute pas que malgré les pressions exercées par l'impérialisme américain, le peuple et le gouvernement de Panama ne toléreront pas plus longtemps la présence sur leur sol du chah déchû d'Iran, tyran et criminel entre tous.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D'IRAN

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Le Conseil Révolutionnaire de l'Iran vous prie donc respectueusement Monsieur le Président, d'accéder à la demande d'extradition qui vous est soumise et, en l'exercice de vos pouvoirs constitutionnels, d'en accélérer la procédure.

Je vous prie de croire, Monsieur le président, en l'expression de ma plus haute considération.

Sadegh GHOTBZADEH

Ministre des Affaires Étrangères
Membre du Conseil Révolutionnaire
de la République Islamique de l'Iran

Son Excellence, Monsieur le Président Royo,
Président de la République de Panama
République de Panama

Office of the President
Republic of Panama

December 28, 1979

I am most grateful for your letter of December 18, regarding the stay in Panama by the ex-Shah of Iran.

We are profoundly happy to know that you understand perfectly the spirit in which our country has complied with this gesture. However, as you know this has caused us a number of problems.

Mr. President, we should like to inform you on this occasion, that my government has just received a letter from the Foreign Minister of Iran advising us that he will be sending an official request for extradition.

In accordance with the legal dispositions of Law No. 44 of November 22, 1930, my government must consider this request once the required details and requirements of the law are met.

The Government of Panama, loyal to its principles, has found it necessary to respond to the Iranian government in order that it understand that it is incomprehensible for a moral revolution such as theirs to violate and impede international laws.

If the government of Iran does not demonstrate its desire to respect those laws by setting free its hostages, it therefore places itself in an extremely difficult position to solicit the extradition it refers to.

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Mr. Jimmy Carter
President of the United States of America
The White House

The Government of the Republic of Panama has confirmed its desire to establish a profound and constructive dialogue in order to find a solution to a very delicate situation.

It would appear that our government has only one possibility of being able to comply with the indicated objective, if both parties in conflict are disposed to make the efforts necessary to prevent a major deterioration of the actual situation.

Our profound and personal respect for you, inspired by your honesty and dedicated action in seeking a solution for the question of the Panama Canal and coupled with your testimony in defense of moral values in international law and order, assures us that we can count with your cooperation in this effort in the quest for world peace.

In this delicate hour, I pray God guide us.

Mr. President, I take the opportunity to greet you with our highest consideration and respect.

Aristides Royo
President of the Republic of Panama



Diciembre 28 de 1979

Excelentísimo Señor Presidente:

Cumplo en agradecer la carta que usted ha tenido a bien dirigirme el 18 de Diciembre, concerniente a la estadía en la República de Panamá, de el ex-Sha de Irán.

Nos agrada profundamente saber, que el espíritu en el cual nuestro País ha cumplido con ese gesto, ha sido perfectamente comprendido por usted aún cuando momentáneamente esto es motivo de numerosos problemas para nosotros.

Nos permitimos indicarle en esta ocasión Sr. Presidente, que nuestro Gobierno acaba de recibir una carta del señor Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Irán, anunciando el envío próximo de un pedido oficial de extradición.

Conforme a las disposiciones legales contenidas en la ley No. 44 de 22 de noviembre de 1930, nuestro Gobierno deberá contemplar ese pedido, una vez que se hayan cumplido los requisitos correspondientes indicados en la Ley.

El Gobierno de la República de Panamá, fiel a sus principios, se ha encontrado en el deber de responder al Gobierno de la República de Irán, para hacerle saber que le resulta incomprensible, que una Revolución profundamente moral, como la que vive ese país, no pueda impedir la violación de Leyes Internacionales.

Si el Gobierno de la República de Irán, no demuestra su deseo de hacer respetar esas leyes liberando todos los detenidos, se ubica en una posición extremadamente difícil para poder solicitar la extradición de referencia.

Excelentísimo
Señor Jimmy Carter
Presidente de los
Estados Unidos de América
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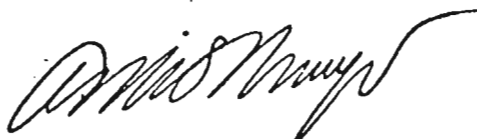
El Gobierno de la República de Panamá ha confirmado su deseo de establecer un diálogo profundo y constructivo en el interés de nuestros pueblos, a fin de ayudar a la solución de una situación sumamente delicada.

Nos parece que nuestro Gobierno sólo tendrá una posibilidad seriá/de cumplir con el objetivo señalado si las dos partes en conflicto, están dispuestas a hacer los esfuerzos necesarios para evitar un mayor deterioro en la situación actual.

El profundo respeto personal que nos inspiró su honesta y decidida actuación en la búsqueda de soluciones para el problema del Canal de Panamá, unido al testimonio de su defensa de valores morales en el orden internacional, nos aseguran que contaremos con su decidida cooperación en este esfuerzo en pro de la paz mundial.

Que Dios nos ilumine a todos en esta hora tan delicada.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para saludar al Señor Presidente con nuestra mayor consideración y respeto.



ARISTIDES ROYO
Presidente de la República de Panamá

Office of the President
Republic of Panama

December 28, 1979

To the members of the Revolutionary Council of the Islamic
Republic of Iran:

I have the honor to greet your Excellencies on the occasion of having received the letter dated December 21 from your Foreign Minister in which he announces a demand for extradition.

In this situation, the Government of the Republic of Panama considers it opportune to point out in the context, the conditions under which it accepted to receive within its territory the ex-Shah of Iran, Mohammed Reza Pahlevi.

Upon the taking of this decision, the conflict in which your nation and the United States had reached such gravity that the entire world feared for world peace.

Now, our government and our people have amply demonstrated our support to the revolutionaries of the world and as such to what degree we join with those peoples who struggle against oppression and dictatorships.

In the struggle for the liberation of Nicaragua, we gambled all of the hard fought gains of the Panama Canal Treaty by being the first nation to recognize the Sandinista Government, in spite of the fact that the U.S. Congress had not yet approved the laws proposed by the treaties set forth between Torrijos

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and Carter.

As in the case of our struggle to re-establish our own sovereignty as well as that of our neighboring people, we have never succumbed to any form of international pressure.

For this reason, it becomes difficult to comprehend how your Council and how your Government could have possibly considered that our action was a result of pressure.

The Government of Panama made a judgement to take the initiative although recognizing an evident risk, but with the objective of contributing to the elimination of one great element of conflict--that being the presence of the ex-Shah of Iran in the United States which was interpreted by the Iranian people as an act of aggression.

We understand fully the dimension of the sentiments of the Iranian people....sentiments that made possible the triumph of your revolution and we also understand your position on the former ruler.

In order to be consistent with our sense of dignity and our support for human rights, we wish to manifest our disagreement with the taking hostage of men and women against their will in an Embassy.

During the time of great tension in Nicaragua, the rights of diplomatic immunity were jealously respected.

It is dramatic to think that inspite of the worst dictatorships in Latin America, embassies continue to be sacred land for asylum. In a revolution as profoundly moral as yours it is hard to understand how you have violated this principle.

In announcing the request for extradition, you obviously aspire to receive the benefits of international law which by the same token would require you to set free the people held hostage in the U.S. Embassy.

What respect can we the Panamanians have for you, as we note that you observe only that part of international law that is convenient to you?

As long as the Islamic Republic of Iran does not demonstrate its intention to respect International Law, it places itself in a very difficult situation.

We are sure that you will understand our position and we repeat again our wish to remain loyal to the motives that inspired our initiative. Moreover, the Republic of Panama is ready to initiate as soon as possible a constructive dialogue in order to save and guard for world peace and to continue to defend the interests of oppressed peoples.

I take this occasion to repeat to Your Excellencies the assurances of my highest and distinguished considerations.

Aristides Royo

President

Republic of Panama



28 de diciembre de 1979

Señores Miembros del Consejo Revolucionario de la República Islámica de Irán:

Tengo el honor de saludar a Vuestras Excelencias atentamente en ocasión de avisar recibo de la carta del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la República Islámica de Irán del día 21 del presente mes, en la cual se anuncia el envío de una demanda de extradición.

En este sentido, el Gobierno de la República de Panamá considera oportuno, en primer lugar, ubicar en su contexto las condiciones en las cuales aceptó recibir en su territorio al ex-Cha de Irán, Mohammed Reza Pahlevi.

Al ser tomada esa decisión, el conflicto surgido entre vuestro país y los Estados Unidos había alcanzado tal gravedad que el mundo entero temía por la paz mundial.

Ahora bien, nuestro Gobierno y nuestro pueblo han demostrado ampliamente con su apoyo a los revolucionarios del mundo hasta qué punto nos hemos comprometido con los pueblos que luchan contra la opresión y la dictadura.

En la lucha de liberación de Nicaragua, pusimos en juego todas las conquistas alcanzadas con los Tratados del Canal, y fuimos los primeros en reconocer al Gobierno sandinista, aún antes que el Congreso norteamericano aprobara las leyes para la ejecución de los Tratados Torrijos-Carter.

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Tanto en la lucha por el restablecimiento de nuestra soberanía como en las luchas libradas por un pueblo hermano, nuestro país no ha cedido jamás ante ninguna presión internacional.

Por esta razón, nos resulta difícil comprender que vuestro Consejo y vuestro Gobierno hayan podido considerar que nuestra gestión responda a una presión.

El Gobierno de la República de Panamá juzgó conveniente tomar una iniciativa que representa un riesgo evidente, con el objeto de contribuir a la eliminación de un elemento del conflicto, es decir, la presencia del ex-Cha en los Estados Unidos, interpretada por el pueblo iraní como una agresión.

Comprendemos plenamente la dimensión de los sentimientos del pueblo de Irán, sentimientos que hicieron posible el triunfo de vuestra Revolución y que nos permiten entender también vuestra posición hacia el ex-gobernante.

Para ser consecuentes con nuestra dignidad y nuestro apoyo a los derechos humanos, deseamos manifestarle nuestro desacuerdo con la retención de hombres y mujeres contra su voluntad en una Embajada.

Incluso en los momentos de máxima tensión en Nicaragua, los derechos de inmunidad diplomática fueron celosamente respetados.

Es dramático pensar que aún en las peores dictaduras de América Latina, las embajadas siguen siendo sitios sagrados de asilo, y que una Revolución tan profundamente moral como la vuestra haya podido consentir esta violación.

Al anunciar el envío de una demanda de extradición, ustedes aspiran a recibir los beneficios del derecho internacional, cuyo respeto os exigiría liberar a las personas retenidas en la Embajada de los Estados Unidos.

¿Qué respeto podríamos tenernos los panameños, si observásemos en el derecho internacional únicamente lo que os conviene, sin señalarles lo que os perjudica?

Mientras la República Islámica de Irán no demuestre su intención de respetar el Derecho Internacional, se coloca a sí misma en una posición difícil.

Estamos seguros de que vosotros sabréis comprender nuestra posición y os reiteramos, por tanto, nuestro deseo de permanecer fieles a los motivos que inspiraron nuestra iniciativa, y que la República de Panamá está presta a iniciar, tan pronto como sea posible, un diálogo constructivo, a fin de salvaguardar la paz mundial que todos anhelamos y defender los intereses de los pueblos oprimidos.

Hago propicia esta ocasión para reiterar a Vuestras Excelencias las seguridades de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.



ARISTIDES ROJO
Presidente de la República
de Panamá

Republic of Panama
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama greets the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the receipt of your kind verbal vote (demarche) of December 21, 1979.

As we have noted, it is our firm proposal to set forth our conduct as in the case in which you have presented for our consideration and within the norms and principles of International Law.

Our historical process and national development is evident before the world that Panama is a free nation which acts under its proper course utilizing peaceful means, because we are convinced that neither violence, threats, nor intransigent actions will gain the support of the people nor bring about solutions.

It has been with political maturity that Panama has won the general respect from the rest of the world.

It is with the same sincerity and approach that we avail ourselves to resolve international problems, whether the issues be small or the distances large.

We greatly lament that our governments have been brought to this point under circumstances of apparent discrepancies, however, we hope that in the understanding of our mutual destinies

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in search of peace, will produce a spirit so necessary in order to reach a point of convergence for our mutual interests.

It is with this hope, that we receive the information that your country will make use of the generally accepted methods through International Law to seek the extradition of the ex-Shah of Iran.

Please be assured that we will provide the necessary attention to your prudent requests. Moreover, we hope that our positive attitude and aforementioned intention to act in conformity with the norms, principles and appreciation of International Law will also be complied with.

As a consequence, we are ready to initiate a productive dialogue, as soon as we see evidence of sensitivity to such universal and necessary respect of diplomatic immunity to diplomats, their families and personnel without reference to other factors such as nationality, creed or color.

Latin America is noted for its compliance with its international commitments as well as having enacted such principles of International Law that will provide for the highest and most cordial relations with nations and their people.

It is in this context, that the Republic of Panama proclaims the continued existence and guaranteed destiny for this respect.

Therefore, we hold for the present, the hopeful opportunity that the petitioners will aid us in an effective solution of our apparent and circumstantial differences so that we can maintain mutual respect and fraternal friendship.

With this opportunity to express to Your Excellency the assurances of our most highest and distinguished considerations.

Panama, December 28, 1979



REPUBLICA DE PANAMA
MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Panamá presenta su saludo al Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la República Islámica del Irán, con ocasión de acusar recibo de su muy atenta Nota Verbal de 21 del presente mes de diciembre.

Desde ya manifestamos que es nuestro más firme propósito enmarcar nuestra conducta, en el caso que han tenido a bien someter a nuestra consideración, dentro de las normas y principios del Derecho Internacional y los postulados de nuestro derecho interno.

El proceso histórico de nuestra reivindicación nacional evidencia ante el mundo que Panamá es un país soberano que actúa por cuenta propia y que, con indesmayable tesón lucha con métodos pacíficos, porque estamos convencidos de que ni la violencia, ni las amenazas, ni las intranquedades son elementos hábiles para captar el apoyo de los pueblos o para brindar las mejores soluciones.

Con muestra de madurez política, la República de Panamá se ha ganado ante el mundo el respeto general.

Con igual serenidad nos esforzamos por resolver todos los problemas internacionales, por pequeños que sean o por largos que puedan ser las distancias.

Mucho lamentamos este acercamiento de nuestros Gobiernos en circunstancias de aparente discrepancia, pero confiamos en que la cabal comprensión del mutuo destino de

Al Honorable
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
de la República Islámica de Irán.

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no de los pueblos amantes de la paz, producirá el espíritu necesario para alcanzar el punto de convergencia de nuestros intereses mutuos.

Es con ese ánimo que recibimos la información de que su apreciado país hará uso de los mecanismos generalmente aceptados por el Derecho Internacional para hacer efectiva su pretensión de obtener la extradición del ex-Cha de Irán.

Tengan la seguridad de que presentaremos la debida y necesaria atención a las gestiones que crean prudente hacer y, a la vez, esperamos que nuestra actitud positiva y nuestra reiterada intención de actuar de conformidad con el Derecho Internacional sea correspondida con una clara observancia de sus normas, principios y usos.

En consecuencia, estamos prestos a iniciar un diálogo productivo, tan pronto como recibamos evidencias de que materias delicadas y de tan necesario respeto universal como lo son las inmunidades de los diplomáticos, de sus familias y de su personal son ampliamente respetadas, sin referencia a factores no atinentes, como su nacionalidad, credo o color.

América Latina se precia de cumplir sus compromisos internacionales y de haber creado principios de Derecho Internacional propiciadores de las mejores y más cordiales relaciones entre los Estados y sus pueblos.

En ese contexto, la República de Panamá proclama una existencia y un destino garantizados por ese respeto.

Aguardaremos, por tanto, la feliz oportunidad de transitar por los senderos que nos lleven efectivamente a la

solución de nuestras aparentes y circunstanciales diferencias, bajo el signo inspirador del respeto mutuo y la amistad fraterna.

Sea propicia la oportunidad para expresar a Vuestra Excelencia las seguridades de nuestra más alta y distinguida consideración

Panamá, 28 de diciembre de 1979