

SECRET

MESSAGE FORM

1.	R4DE023
2.	081230B
3.	10 APRIL 2012
4.	01 - 03
5.	ROUTINE

6.	EF10: [REDACTED] EF21: [REDACTED] TO: [REDACTED]
7.	SECRET
8.	B14: LIASON ADMIN REPORT
9.	CONTACT REPORT
10.	IN/IC/OR

11.	DHOS EF21/4
12.	EF21/4 SYRIA
13.	EF21/4: IRANIAN LS CONTACT REPORT 08/05/2012

1. The above refers.
2. Please find hereunder Liaison contact report referred to above.
3. Thank you for your attention.

APPROVED BY: HOS EF21/4

END OF MESSAGE

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STATE SECURITY AGENCY – FOREIGN BRANCH

LIAISON CONTACT

To COUNTRY MANAGER

Reference

Name of Liaison Service : Iranian Intelligence Representative Based In Syria

Country : Islamic Republic of Iran, based in Damascus - Syria

Name of SSA - FB member : [REDACTED] (HOS) and R [REDACTED] (DHoS)

Name of LS member(s) : [REDACTED] (Councillor)

Date of meeting : 08 MAY 2012

Place of meeting : IRANIAN Embassy, Damascus

Type of meeting (Personal/Telephone) : Personal

Documents exchanged (yes/no) : NO

If yes - Specify document(s) : N/A

Other people/officials involved : No

Initiator of contact : [REDACTED] (DHoS)

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1. **Purpose**

- 1.1 The meeting was to introduce the HOS to [REDACTED] (the Intelligence representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Damascus, Syria), by DHoS.

2. **Report**

- 2.2. The meeting took place on Tuesday 08 May 2012 at 10:00 at the Iranian Embassy in Damascus.
- 2.3. A discussion was held around the current situation in Syria.
- 2.4. [REDACTED] informed the meeting that the Iranian Ambassador had within the past week met with the Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister, Minister MIKDAD, who seemed very optimistic on the Syrian situation.
- 2.5. [REDACTED] also informed the meeting that the Iranian Ambassador had recently (2-3 weeks ago) held a meeting with his Russian counterpart. The Russian Ambassador noted that until the end of the summer nothing will happen in Syria. The Russians believe that nothing will happen until the outcome of a report by Kofi Annan will be made. Further, they believe that if Annan condemns the Syrian regime this will be when the West will propose a new resolution in the UNSC. However, the Russians firmly believe that the Annan initiative must be implemented and supported. Thus far only point 2 of the 6 point plan is being monitored.
- 2.6. [REDACTED] also mentioned that Iran has only met with the internal opposition groups. In particular they have met with the (Hayat Tansiq al-Wataniyah) National Coordinating Body/Committee (NCC/NCB). The Head of the NCC/NCB has also visited Iran on two occasions but the meetings were "fruitless". The reason for this was that the internal opposition is not fully representative of all opposition groups and the internal opposition groups were too weak.
- 2.7. [REDACTED] confirmed that the Iranians have not met with any of the External opposition groups.
- 2.8. He also confirmed that the Syrian government is fully aware of the meetings with the opposition and wants mediation efforts to take place. He further mentioned that the Syrian government is serious to move forward with reforms.
- 2.9. [REDACTED] further noted that the Syrian population have "legal demands" but that the reform process has to be carried out by the current government.
- 2.10. [REDACTED] noted that the Economic situation in Syria is deteriorating day-by-day. He acknowledged that the sanctions continue to add to this problem. He identified key areas of concern, these included, Gas, Electricity and inflation. Further he noted that Syria was facing a 4 sided sanctions, this was from Turkey, the USA, the EU and from certain Arab countries.

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- 2.11. [REDACTED] did however confirm that Iran has plans to and are supporting the Syrian government in this regard.
 - 2.12. [REDACTED] also noted that most Syrians were not supporting the opposition nor were they supporting the government. These people were all "witnessing" what was happening and will wait for whoever succeeds. He referred to this group as the "silent majority".
 - 2.13. [REDACTED] also mentioned that the security situation in Syria was very concerning and this placed severe limitations on the movement of Iranians. He said that they were confined to Damascus and did not leave the Damascus area due to safety concerns.
 - 2.14. On the issue of Iran/USA talks (on nuclear energy) to be held in Baghdad at the end (23-25) May 2012, [REDACTED] confirmed that the moving of the talks to Baghdad was a "gain" for Iran. Iran felt that break-troughs should not be made in Istanbul. However there were positive steps achieved in Istanbul. The Istanbul talks were a victory to Iran in the sense that there was agreement that Iran has a right to nuclear energy for civilian use. In Baghdad Iran will cooperate and a deal is expected.
 - 2.15. The Arab League has called a meeting of the Syrian opposition in Cairo to discuss unity. This meeting will take place, in two weeks from this date. The external and internal opposition organizations have been invited to attend.
 - 2.16. On the current discourse with the IIAE on the visit of the Iranian president to the disputed islands in the Gulf [REDACTED] asserted that there is a misunderstanding in the Gulf as to where those disputed islands fall. He further intimated that the said islands belong to Iran. It is Iranians who reside there.
3. Thank you for your attention.

END OF MESSAGE

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