

May, 1975

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President and His Imperial Majesty, the Shahanshah of Iran, met in the Oval Office at 11:00 a.m. this morning for 95 minutes following the arrival ceremony on the South Lawn. Also attending the meeting were Secretary Kissinger and Lt. Gen. Scowcroft. Their Imperial Majesties are here on a state visit through Sunday, May 18, and will be the guests of the President and Mrs. Ford at a State Dinner this evening at the White House.

The President warmly welcomed his first opportunity to meet with His Imperial Majesty, the Shahanshah, who is a long-standing friend of the United States. The President reaffirmed the importance we attach to the continuance of the close and friendly ties, founded in deep mutual interests, that bind the United States and Iran.

The two leaders discussed the progress which has been made in economic relations between our two countries, taking particular note of the coordination being achieved through the US-Iran Joint Commission established last year. They agreed that this close consultation and cooperation should be continued and intensified. They also welcomed the increasing trade between our countries and current prospects for its substantial expansion. The President expressed his admiration for the example of economic development set by Iran under His Imperial Majesty's leadership.

The President and His Imperial Majesty reviewed recent political and economic developments in the international arena. The President stressed the intention of the United States to maintain its strength and its support for American allies throughout the world and the continuing American commitment to seek the reduction of international tensions. The two leaders agreed that a continuing dialogue between our two Governments on all matters of mutual concern, within the framework of our traditionally friendly relations, can only contribute to the further solution of international problems.

The President and His Imperial Majesty, the Shahanshah reaffirmed the common interests of the United States and Iran in regional peace and stability and the President noted the constructive role which Iran has been playing, particularly in the Persian Gulf region. They expressed their continuing support for cooperation among the states in that area to assure regional security and orderly development.

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The President and His Imperial Majesty also discussed the situation in the Middle East and efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace. They expressed concern that a stalemate not develop in efforts to achieve a final, peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The President reaffirmed his determination that the United States will continue to play an active role in the peace-making process in the Middle East.

The President expressed special pleasure in the visit of His Imperial Majesty, the Shahanshah, as a further step in deepening the ties between Iran and the United States.

His Imperial Majesty will meet with high-level officials of the Administration as well as with Members of Congress during his visit.

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