

naissance mission should commence without delay. You should seek to arrange that instructions supporting this initiative be cabled respective UN Dels soonest.

For London: Emb requested inform ForOff confidentially USC intentions, ask for UK comments, and express hope UK will provide such subsequent assistance as may be required.

Other addressees should not disclose US plans at this stage.

Rusk

41. Editorial Note

Late in the evening of May 4, 1961, Admiral Burke directed the Joint Chiefs of Staff Duty Officer to see that President Kennedy received immediately the text of a message from Tehran reporting that during a teachers strike in Iran, 50,000 demonstrators had clashed with Iranian Army and security forces and that a nationwide strike sponsored by the National Front was possible. General Clifton read the message at 10:50 p.m., but decided not to waken the President who had retired for the evening. Clifton informed Burke of this, said that if additional vital news came from Iran it would be shown to the President, and promised to show the original message to the President first thing in the morning. According to a memorandum by Clifton written at 11:40 p.m., he also informed Burke that "the President had been worried that things had been happening that he isn't informed about, and that this looked fairly difficult, so he should be kept posted." Clifton's memorandum, the message from Tehran, and a subsequent message reporting which Iranian military units had been put on alert are in the Kennedy Library, National Security Files, Country Series, Iran, 5/1/61-5/14/61.

The following day, the Embassy in Tehran reported that Prime Minister Jafar Sharif Emami and his Cabinet had resigned. (Telegram 1366 from Tehran; Department of State, Central Files, 788.13/5-561) Later that day in Washington, Iran was discussed at a meeting of the National Security Council. Record of Action No. 2420 taken by the National Security Council at its 483d meeting on May 5 indicates that the National Security Council had: "Agreed that a Task Force should be established under the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs to prepare and circulate a report on the subject by May 15 for discussion by the