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Iran

23 June 59

Gromyko, A. A. (Minister of Foreign
Affairs of the U.S.S.R.)

- 1 letter from D.H.

DRAFT

23 June 1959

To: H.E. Mr. A.A. Gromyko,
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the U.S.S.R.

Approved by H. Dulak with the
minutes 24 June 59.
H.

Dear Mr. Gromyko,

You will remember that, when I called on you in Geneva, 10 May, I mentioned to you that I had just received a communication from the Government of Iran in which it had drawn my attention to difficulties which had arisen in their relations with the USSR as regards press and radio broadcasts. In the communication the Government of Iran expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would take such action as he might deem appropriate to help redress the situation. You will also remember that I said that, although I did not wish to go into any discussion of substance pending more detailed and independent study of matters to which the communication refers, I felt that I should inform you about the matter and that I was obliged to raise it officially, if a closer study would seem to warrant it.

The communication to which I referred, dated 8 May 1959, had been preceded by a similar communication of 28 February 1959. I have now received a new note verbale dated 22 June 1959 in which the Government of Iran reverts to the matter giving also excerpts from radio broadcasts in support of their expressions of concern. In the lastmentioned communication the Government of Iran, expressing its hope that measures will be taken to put an end to unfavorable publicity, states that it is willing, were positive steps to be taken in the indicated direction, on its side to take further measures with a view to normalising the relationship between the USSR and Iran through broadened contacts.

The communication from the Government of Iran of 22 June, transmitted by its Delegation to the United Nations, with its supporting material, induces me to revert to the matter. In doing so my interest is not concerned with the past, and it would be futile for me and, indeed, out of order to voice criticism or try to establish responsibilities for what may have happened. I am, naturally, disappointed that difficulties have continued also over the last month, but my concern is about the future. I feel convinced that there is every possibility, through appropriate measures, to create an atmosphere in which friendly and good neighbourly relations could be re-established between the two countries. The first step in that direction would obviously be a toning down of public attacks which, whatever their reason, are bound to put obstacles in the way of efforts in the direction of reconciliation. I am convinced that, were a kind of publicity "truce" to be achieved, the Government of Iran, for its part, would be happy to take such constructive steps for an improvement of relations as are indicated in their latest communication and as might be agreeable to the Government of the USSR. I do not believe that there is any need for assistance from my side to bring about the desirable broadened contacts, but, if that were to be considered helpful, I would of course be happy to lend such assistance.

As I also in this contact with you have left aside the substantive issues and addressed myself solely to the question of possible action for an improvement of relations, it may be that you feel that it would be more profitable to talk over the matter than to engage in an exchange of letters about it. I shall be in Geneva from the beginning of July until at least the 15th or 16th of the same month. That means that we will, again, both be in Geneva at the same time. This might offer a good opportunity for a talk about the question I have raised again in this letter.

24 June 1959

Dear Mr. Gromyko,

You will remember that, when I called on you in Geneva, 10 May, I mentioned to you that I had just received a communication from the Government of Iran in which it had drawn my attention to difficulties which had arisen in their relations with the U.S.S.R. as regards press and radio broadcasts. In its communication the Government of Iran expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would take such action as he might deem appropriate to help redress the situation. You will also remember that I said that, although I did not wish to go into any discussion of substance, pending an independent study of the matters to which the communication referred, I felt that I should inform you about the demarche and that I would be obliged to raise the matter officially, if a study of the development of the situation would seem to warrant it.

The communication to which I referred, dated 8 May 1959, had been preceded by a similar communication of 28 February 1959. I have now received a new note verbale dated 22 June 1959 in which the Government of Iran raises the matter again, this time presenting also excerpts from radio broadcasts in support of their expressions of concern. In the last-mentioned communication the Government of Iran, expressing its hope that the unfavorable publicity might be brought to an end, states that, were positive steps to be taken in this direction, the Government would be prepared for further measures which might help to normalize the relationship between the U.S.S.R. and Iran through broadened contacts.

The communication from the Government of Iran of 22 June, transmitted by its Delegation to the United Nations, with supporting material, prompts me to revert to the matter. In doing so my interest is not concerned with the past; it would be futile for me to voice criticism and, indeed, out of order to try to establish responsibilities for what may have happened.

I am, naturally, most disappointed that difficulties have continued also over the last month, but my concern here is about the future. I feel convinced that there is every possibility, through appropriate measures, to create an atmosphere in which friendly and good neighbourly relations could be re-established between the two countries. A first step

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His Excellency
Mr. A.A. Gromyko,
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

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Dag Hammarskjöld

24 June 1959

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