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FM TEHRAN 050920Z AUG  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 435 OF 5 AUGUST 1984  
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, CABINET OFFICE (FOR D10).

WASHINGTON TELNO 2352 (NOT TO BONN) : AIR FRANCE HIJACKING.

1. THERE ARE SUSPICIONS HERE TOO THAT THE HIJACKERS WERE OPERATING IN COLLUSION WITH THE IRANIAN AUTHORITIES.
2. THESE SUSPICIONS ARE BASED ON THE HIJACKERS' ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PASSENGERS SHORTLY AFTER TAKEOVER THAT THEY INTENDED TO GO TO TEHRAN, THEIR POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS AND THE DEMANDS THEY MADE, WHAT THE PASSENGERS HAVE SAID ABOUT THE HIJACKERS' RELATIONS WITH THE IRANIAN POLICE, AND THEIR APPARENT ACCESS IN TEHRAN TO MOR E ARMS, EXPLOSIVES, ETC, THAN THEY STARTED OFF WITH. MISS WALLINGTON TOLD THE CONSUL THAT AFTER THE AIRCRAFT HAD REACHED TEHRAN ONE OF THE HIJACKERS HAD SHOWN HER A REVOLVER, WHICH SHE HAD NOT SEEN EARLIER (YOUR TELNO 258 NOT TO ALL). IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH A LONDON COMMERCIAL

REVOLVER, WHICH SHE HAD NOT SEEN EARLIER (YOUR TELNO 258 NOT TO ALL). IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH A LONDON COMMERCIAL RADIO STATION AFTER HIS RELEASE ON 2 AUGUST, SHINGLETON SAID THAT BY THAT MORNING THE HIJACKERS HAD STEN GUNS, PISTOLS, PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES AND A LARGE ROLL OF DETONATING WIRE, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN SEEN EARLIER. THE IRANIANS HOWEVER, ARE CLAIMING THAT ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES WERE TAKEN FROM SUITCASES IN THE CARGO COMPARTMENT AFTER LANDING.

3. THE FRENCH ARE PROBABLY BETTER PLACED TO MAKE A JUDGEMENT, BUT WE SHALL REPORT IN MORE DETAIL BY NEXT BAG. SHINGLETON (HOME TEL. NO. 0494-36887) TOLD ME HE WOULD BE GLAD TO DESCRIBE HIS EXPERIENCES TO THE DEPARTMENT; SECURITY COORDINATION UNIT MAY WISH TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM.

SIMPSON-ORLEBAR

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