WEST EUROPE

Commission proposal to refund Britain £340m on EEC budget

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Nov 22

Britain would get a refund of about £340m on its contributions to the EEC budget next year, and receive a further unquantified amount of relief from increased Community spending in Britain on the coal industry, agriculture, and road improvement, under proposals announced here today by the European Commission.

Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the Commission, will put the proposals to Mrs Thatcher and other EEC heads of governments at their summit in Dublin on November 29 and 30. The Prime Minister has said that Britain's estimated 1980 budget deficit of £1,200m must be brought into broad balance.

In a separate move, Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the Commissioner for Agriculture, disclosed plans for cutting financial aid to milk, sugar, beef, and cereal producers. He claimed that these proposals would reduce projected EEC spending on the farm sector by about £650m over a year.

Mr Gundelach's proposals will not be discussed in detail at Dublin, but their announcement, due in December, was brought forward to show Mrs Thatcher and her EEC colleagues before the summit that the Commission is serious about tackling agricultural surpluses.

The initial British reaction to the Gundelach plan was distinctly hostile although the Government, like its Labour predecessor, has complained bitterly about the heavy charge of agriculture on the EEC budget.

After a meeting with executives of the British Sugar Corporation, Mr Peter Walker, the Minister for Agriculture, said that the sugar proposals, aimed at reducing the Community's sugar surplus by one million tonnes, would put an "unfair and illogical burden" on British producers. He called on the Commission to reconsider "these unacceptable ideas".

British officials were equally harsh about the Commission's proposals for increased taxation of milk producers. Milk and sugar production in Britain, they argued, met only a part of domestic demand and were not responsible for the surpluses. Yet because British producers were more efficient they would be disproportionately penalized.

Under the Commission plan, the tax on milk producers of 0.5 per cent would go up to 1.5 per cent on April 1, and dairies would have to pay a further tax estimated at 3 per cent.

The Commission aims to cut the sugar surplus from three million to two million tonnes, mainly by reducing the amount of sugar eligible for price support and increasing the tax on production. British producers claim that the quota they have been offered of 936,000 tonnes could lead to the closure of half the sugar beet factories in Britain.

Mr Gundelach denied that the milk tax would penalize producers unfairly: "They are not being asked to reduce production merely to stop increasing production in the future. The situation now is that anyone can produce anything he likes because it is at someone else's, the taxpayers', expense."

Milk production in the EEC is running at 15 per cent above demand. The dairy sector accounts for about 45 per cent of all spending on farm price support and about 30 per cent of EEC budgetary expenditure.

Among the Commission's proposals for increasing spending in Britain are proposals for encouraging the use of coal in power plants and subsidizing EEC-produced coal. That could be of substantial benefit to Britain, which is the biggest coal producer in the EEC.

The Commission document says that if Britain joined the European Monetary System it could become eligible for investment loans at subsidized rates of interest.

The Commission also describes as "useful" an Italian plan whereby the EEC would, over a number of years, devote an increasing proportion of Community funds to industrial investment, regional development and farm modernization.

Hugh Clayton, Agriculture Correspondent, writes: British complaints about the cost of EEC farm policy were rejected in London yesterday by Herr Josef Ertl, West German Minister of Agriculture. "It has not been my country which has forced up agricultural prices in the Community", he told members of the Anglo-German Chamber of Commerce.

"Over the past four years our nominal agricultural prices have increased by 16 per cent against nearly 60 per cent in the United Kingdom."

Herr Ertl rejected British proposals that farmers on the Continent to be kept in business with social payments rather than with high farm prices and said the common agricultural policy did not need reform. All the necessary instruments for correcting imbalances were available

Tate & Lyle welcomed the plan to cut sugarbeet quotas. The company, which refines cane sugar, said dumping surpluses outside the Community had depressed the world price of sugar and had cost Community taxpayers £350m a year.

Britain 'on collision course' with Community

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, Chancellor of the Exchequer, set the Government on a collision course yesterday with the European Community, when he made clear in a debate in the Commons that the solutions to Britain's huge imbalance in contributions to the EEC budget must be radical, permanent and immediate.

Seldom has a government left itself so little room for retreat or manoeuvre and rarely, on EEC matters, has the Commons been so united. Opposition and Government, MPs for and MPs against the Community, rallied round the Chancellor as he told them that the problem must be solved at next week's Dublin summit once and for all.

It was not enough for the Community to offer temporary measures which would afford relief for a year or two and which at the end of that time would leave Britain in as intolerable a situation as ever.

From the Labour benches Sir Geoffrey had the full support of Mr Peter Shore, Opposition foreign affairs spokesman and a long time opponent of the EEC. Gleefully he recited his warnings of seven years ago, when he had told the House that the present imbalance in our contributions would inevitably take place.

More significantly, Mr Shore served warning that Britain and the EEC were now on a collision course and that the willingness shown to change a manifestly unfair system of taxation would be seen by the British people as a test.

There could be no retreat at Dublin from the considered, deliberate and successive statements made by the Prime Minister, Mr Shore said. It was not good enough to rattle the chains.

Indeed, the Chancellor, with the Prime Minister sitting beside him, seemed only too well aware that he was heading down a path from which the Government could return only in glory or in ignominy. If nothing was changed at Dublin, Sir Geoffrey said, Britain, leaving out order of gross national product, would be by far and away the largest contributor to the Community budget in 1980.

The Chancellor said he was not wedded to any particular solution. One method would be an entirely new and separate mechanism. Another could be a single rule limiting Britain's net contribution in a way which would satify the Government's overall objective. A further method could be to raise receipts per head

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Air controllers in France resume ban

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 22

Air traffic controllers at centres throughout France voted today to resume disruptive action which is stopping the majority of flights taking off from the country's airports. They had called off the action, which has ben going on for more than three weeks, for 24 hours to await the outcome of talks last night with M Roger Machenaud, director of Air Navigation.

The controllers' representatives said after the meeting that although they had been able to talk about the whole range of their claims from better pay to higher manning levels, they had been left in no doubt that M Machenaud was in no position to negotiate.

The authorities have taken disciplinary action against 42 controllers at Lyons airport and 36 at Aix-en-Provence, having them off for periods of between one week and three months, because of their support for the union ban on allowing aircraft to take off. The unions do not meet again until Monday to decide their next step.

Gromyko warning to Bonn on Nato missile plan

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Nov 22

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, warned West Germany tonight that the Nato plan to station medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe would only worsen the situation on the Continent. It would, he suggested, undermine the chances of success in disarmament negotiations.

Mr Gromyko was speaking at a banquet given by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his West German counterpart, after a day of talks dominated by the Nato plan and proposals by both East and West for negotiations on arms reduction.

Whatever may have been said during the discussions, which officials reported were held in a "very good constructive spirit", Mr Gromyko publicly maintained—albeit in milder tones—the bitter Soviet criticism of the plan.

He rejected the Nato argument that it is forced to adopt missiles to counterbalance the Soviet SS20s deployed in the East.

During their meetings, the two ministers also reviewed bilateral relations which, they agreed, were going well and were a very important factor in efforts for detente.

Mr Gromyko agreed with his host that the situation in West Berlin, especially vulnerable to expressions of Soviet displeasure because of its isolated position inside East Europe, should remain peaceful. They agreed to seek pragmatic solutions to the city's outstanding problems.

One guest who was to be conspicuous by his absence at the banquet in Mr Gromyko's honour was Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the opposition candidate for the chancellorship.

Herr Strauss is displaying an ostentatiously cool attitude to the Soviet visitor. Aides said he had not made any special effort to arrange a meeting with him and postponed another with Mr Gromyko had not shown any particular anxiety to see Herr Strauss.

It appears that Herr Strauss has been expecting an invitation to Moscow for some time and did not want to appear to be pressing for it.

Socialist in the Gaullist parlour

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Nov 22

An unprecedented meeting between M Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, and M François Mitterand, the Socialist leader, took place today in the mayor's office.

It lasted for only a few minutes and, although described as a courtesy visit, acquires a sharp political significance in the context of current talks about "convergence" between Gaullists and Socialists.

The president of the Gaullist Rassemblement had never had any conversation with the First Secretary of the Socialist Party before.

"Convergence" is the fashionable word these days in political lobbies and Paris drawing rooms. This rather barbarous expression is synonymous with a meeting of minds which, given the right circumstances, might lead to a reversal of political alliances in this country.

The mechanics of it are rather simple. French political forces are almost evenly divided between the Government majority and the opposition. But each is made up of two parties, the Gaullists and Gaullists on the one hand and Socialists and Communists on the other. They find cohabitation increasingly unbearable.

It is an open secret that President Giscard d'Estaing, since coming to office in 1974, has dreamed of an alternative dream attention recently to the many "convergences" between Gaullists and Socialists.

M. Charles Pasqua, until recently deputy Secretary-General of the RPR still wields great influence in the party. In two articles in the independent left-wong daily Le Mati earlier this week, he attacked President Giscard D'Estaing and his "double talk" which illustrated a "conservative, even reactionary" state of mind.

These are all straws in the wind. What they add up to is a growing conviction by a number of Gaullists and Socialists that they need one another to stop M Giscard d'Estaing in 1981. The problem for the Gaullists is whether they should call on their troops to abstain in the second ballot of the presidentials or to vote Socialist.

What is certain is that a substantial number of Gaullists will not vote for M Giscard d'Estaing under any circumstances next time, and M Mitterand, since the end of last year, sees the distinct possibility of a victory of the left, thanks to their votes.

The Communists, who have been acting increasingly as objective allies of the Government, might then spike the Socialists' guns by proposing a formal alliance which would frighten off the Gaullists. If everything went in Mr Mitterand's row margin as in 1974, a small shift of Gaullists to the left or

ISLAMIC UNREST

Irish elder statesman encouraged by Iran to mediate in dispute with America

From Robert Fisk
Tehran, Nov 22

Mr Sean MacBride, a former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and one of the founders of Amnesty International, flew into Tehran today at the invitation of the Iranian Government to try to break the deadlock over the American diplomats held hostage at the United States Embassy here.

Mr MacBride, who holds the Nobel prize, the Lenin peace prize and the American Medal of Justice, held talks with Mr Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, the Iranian Foreign Minister, and said later that he felt "the way could be open for discussions" between the United States and Iran.

This is the first time since the embassy siege began almost three weeks ago that the Iranian authorities have encouraged the intervention of a potential mediator between the two countries.

Mr MacBride was carrying with him a message from Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, the Director-General of Unesco, and arrived in the Iranian capital without any publicity in the company of a Unesco official.

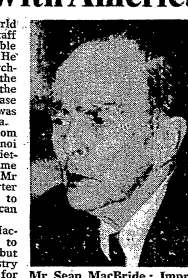
Mr MacBride, who was Irish Minister for External Affairs shortly after the Second World War and was once chief-of-staff of the IRA, has a considerable record as an intermediary: He negotiated the release of Archbishop Makarios from the Seychelles and undertook the talks which led to the release of Archbishop Beran, who was imprisoned in Czechoslovakia.

He took a message from Pope Paul VI to the Hanoi Government during the Vietnam war and spent some time in North Vietnam with Mr Ramsey Clark, whom Mr Carter sent on an abortive mission to Iran to free the American hostages earlier this month.

The initiative for Mr MacBride's intervention appears to have come from Unesco but the Iranian Foreign Ministry then issued an invitation for him to come to Tehran. Mr MacBride lunched with Mr Bani-Sadr today and was to have further talks with him tonight.

Nevertheless, it is Ayatollah Khomeini and not the Revolutionary Council which controls domestic and foreign policy in Iran, and Mr Bani-Sadr, who is a leading member of the Council, does not appear to have any mandate to negotiate on behalf of the clergy.

Mr MacBride, however, has one thing in his favour: during the last 10 years of the Shah's rule, Amnesty was outspoken in its condemnation of torture by Savak, the Shah's secret police. The Iranian authorities can therefore scarcely claim that Mr MacBride represents the American Government. Indeed, he has had no contact with the United States Administration prior to his arrival here.



Mr Sean MacBride: Impressive record as intermediary.

Mr MacBride, whose views on press freedom—voiced in his capacity as chairman of the International Commission for the study of Communication Problems—have earned much condemnation in the West, believes that two possible initiatives by the Americans might open the way to negotiations. He feels that some acknowledgement by the United States of the "atrocities" that took place under the Shah would go a long way towards calming passions in Iran.

He also believes that an investigation into the Shah's reign by the International Commission of Jurists might persuade the students at the American Embassy to free their hostages.

"I was asked to come here to see what I could do," Mr MacBride said tonight. "I did not come to express any views on the situation. The systematic torture and brutalization carried out by the Shah here was one of our main problems in Amnesty."

The MacBride intervention probably has little chance of immediate success. But the United States is likely to welcome any mediation by an internationally known statesman, however controversial his political views may be. According to Unesco, the arrangements for Mr MacBride's mission have been carried out "on a strictly confidential basis".

Ayatollah calls for unity against 'pagans'

Tehran, Nov 22.—Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian religious leader, today urged the Islamic world "to rise in the face of injustice", and support Iran in its clash with America.

Addressing a group of visiting Pakistani officers in a televised speech, he said this clash now amounted to "war between the Muslims and the pagans".

"Now that we are busy rebuilding over the ruins caused by the foreign vandalism, foreign rule, we have come face to face with America.

"We hope that brotherly and Islamic nations who suffered under foreign oppression, just as we did, rise in revolt now that our nation has risen in revolt.

"It is a matter of joy that Pakistan has risen in revolt. As I saw in the newspaper headline today, the whole of Pakistan has risen in revolt against America. . . . This is heartening for our oppressed nation.

"Muslims must unite, must assemble, be one and not separate from each other, must not consider frontiers as the cause of dividing their hearts.

"Sadly, due to bad propaganda through history, which has made people afraid of these superpowers, it has been possible to frighten your nations and ours, so that we think these superpowers are not vulnerable—in a way that if we dare to speak they'll throttle us. . . .

"We hope that all Islamic nations join us in this fight, which is a fight between Islam and blasphemy, between ourselves and America, between Islam and blasphemy."—UPI and Reuter.

Tass accuses White House of trying to put all blame for crisis on Tehran

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Nov 22

In an attempt to exploit the tensions between the United States and Iran the Russians have gone as near as possible to supporting the Iranian seizure of the American Embassy without actually doing so.

In the past week the Soviet media have given widespread coverage to accusations that the United States was putting pressure on Iran, threatening to use military force and hounding Iranian students in America.

Reporting by Tass has been carefully selective, giving prominence to the statements of Ayatollah Khomeinii that the embassy was a centre of espionage while saying little of the situation of the hostages or of appeals by the United Nations Security Council for their release.

More than a week ago Tass rejected American accusations that the Soviet press had been issuing "completely unacceptable" commentaries on the crisis. It also denied that its reporting had been tendentious, saying it was well known that the Soviet Union upheld all principles of international law.

Since then Tass has reported that the American campaign against Iran has intensified. The Iranian Foreign Minister has been quoted as saying that Iranian citizens "are America were hounded and insulted by individual Americans and by officials. Reports from New York said the freezing of Iranian assets had caused considerable anxiety in America and Western Europe and could cause new currency problems in the Western world.

Yesterday Tass Reported that the American position had become more rigid, and accused the White House of trying to put all the responsibility for the crisis on Iran. It said that President Carter's statement that remedies other than peaceful ones were available to the United States was being interpreted as "a direct threat to use military force against Iran".

The Americans have accused the Russians of encouraging the Iranian students in broadcasts beamed from a radio station in Baku called the National Voice of Iran. Monitors in the West yesterday reported that for the first time the radio station had urged the release of the hostages. But this call has not been repeated in the Soviet press, which never refers to Soviet foreign language broadcasts.

The one-sided coverage of Iran appears to be motivated by Soviet reckoning that sooner or later the Americans will use force, with a consequent violent anti-American reaction throughout the Muslim world from which the Russians—whose relations with the Khomeini regime have been increasingly strained in recent months—could benefit.

The Soviet line appears to be echoed in Eastern Europe, with an East German newspaper today calling the takeover of the embassy an expression of "the fury of the Iranian people".

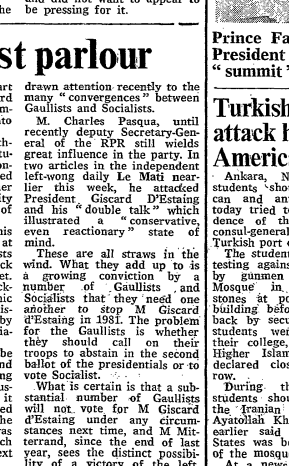
The Russians have frequently tried to curry favour with Ayatollah Khomeini. They were particularly angered by Western reports that the Russians had helped to block the Iranian request for a Security Council debate on the situation, and put out an urgent newsflash denying that the Soviet Union had played any active part in the deliberations.

This public stance contrasts curiously with the private opinions of Russians in all fields, who express amazement that the Americans should have tolerated the situation for so long. They privately admit that the seizure of the embassy is a gross and unacceptable violation of international law, which the Russians themselves could never condone.

Yet they justify their public attitudes by saying, in effect, that the Americans are fair game, and that anyway the American press would have done the same if the situation were reversed.

Ideologists frequently assert that the role of the Soviet press is to support the policies of the Soviet Communist Party and state.

If Soviet policy, therefore, does a volte-face, the press is obliged either to eat its words while they are still fresh or assume that readers are incapable of comparing what was written three weeks ago with what is proclaimed as the truth today. Soviet officials are publicly unabashed by the contradictions this entails.



Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia has the ear of President Nimeiry of Sudan as the Arab "summit" closes in Tunis.

Turkish students attack home of American consul

Ankara, Nov 22.—Islamic students shouting anti-American and anti-Zionist slogans today tried to storm the residence of the United States consul-general in the western Turkish port city of Izmir.

The students, who were protesting against the occupation by gunmen of the Great Mosque in Mecca, hurled stones at police outside the building before being pushed back by security forces. Five students were arrested and their college, the Institute of Higher Islamic Studies, was declared closed until tomorrow.

During the rioting the students shouted support for the Iranian religious leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, who had earlier said that the United States was behind the seizure of the mosque.

At a news conference later today the students said they had not planned to occupy the building. They claimed that the mosque raid was staged by "American Imperialism, the slave of Israel and Zionism". The aim was to "massacre Muslems at the start of the fifteenth Islamic century."

Security measures were

Summit support for Lebanon over guerrillas

Tunis, Nov 22.—Arab League leaders agreed on the third day of their summit conference to give Lebanese authorities some control over the movements of Palestinian guerrillas in South Lebanon.

Mr Elias Sarkis, the Lebanese President, dropped a demand that his fellow Arab leaders should support his authority to order the guerrillas out of south Lebanon.

Under the agreement, the Lebanese authorities and the Palestinian movement will have joint control over the location of guerrilla forces in the south.

They added that Arab countries pledged £1,000m in aid to Lebanon during the next five years and took note of a Palestinian undertaking to halt attacks on Israel from South Lebanon.

The conference ended with a formal declaration renewing the Arab States' pledges to the Palestinian cause and their condemnation of Egypt's peace treaty with Israel.

They also undertook to work out a common strategy on political, economic and military affairs, and to link their attitude towards other coun-

Khomeini envoys hold talks with Kurds on autonomy

Mahabad, Iran, Nov 22.—Representatives of Ayatollah Khomeini are holding talks with Iranian Kurdish leaders on their demands for autonomy within Iran.

A three-man mission last night met members of the Iranian Kurdistan Democratic Party, long banned under the Shah and still not officially recognized although it operates openly.

The party is the hub of the Iranian Kurds' political movement and controls the Pesh Merga guerrillas who are in military occupation of most Kurdish towns in western Iran.

The delegation composed of Mr Dariush Forhar, a state minister, Ayatollah Shohabi and Mr Hashem Abaghian, former Minister of the Interior, was expected to meet Shaikh Ezzedin Hosseini, the Kurdish spiritual leader, later today or tomorrow at a secret location outside Mahabad.

Kurdish leaders told reporters today that if they did not get final acceptance of their autonomy demand in writing during the talks, they would no longer observe a ceasefire in force since the mission's first visit to Kurdistan earlier this month.

They had received with "reserved optimism" a message to the Kurds last week by Ayatollah Khomeini who said that their demands had been accepted. He was not specific, however, on the crucial question of how to define autonomy.

For the Kurds, who say they number six million in Iran, autonomy means self-rule except for foreign policy, armed forces, monetary policy and long-term economic projects.

They want to remain part of Iran and, apart from a considerable movement back and forth across the borders with Iraq and Turkey to buy and sell arms and food, have few political links with the other Kurds in Turkey, Iraq, the Soviet Union, Syria and Lebanon.

Kurdish guerrillas control most towns in the provinces inhabited by Kurds. In Mahabad, the guerrillas stroll through the busy streets carrying Soviet-made Kalashnikov assault rifles of the army-issue G3s, hand grenades, pistols, daggers, and ammunition.

The army and Revolutionary Guards stay in their barracks on the edge of the town. Lightly armed off-duty soldiers walk in small groups through the centre of the town with no apparent hostility towards them But there is no sign of the Revolutionary Guards, whom the Kurds blame for most of the recent disorders.—Reuter.

Beduin who proclaim new Mahdi

From Our Correspondent
Jiddah, Nov 22

The Beduin, who on Tuesday seized control of the Holy Haran around the sacred Kaaba in Mecca, are from the Oteiba tribe, possibly with a smattering of other groups represented.

Belonging to the majority Sunni sect of Islam, they are a half-settled, half-nomadic people with grazing lands mainly between Mecca and Riyadh.

The Oteiba are a substantial but not prominent tribe, who migrated 500 years ago from what is now Qatar, where an Oteiba dynasty ruled briefly 200 years ago. The Oil Minister of the United Arab Emirates is an Oteiba.

The Oteiba were frequently used by King Abdul Aziz as shock troops in the pacification of the peninsula. After his conquest of Hejaz, he had his Beduin supporters, the Ikhwan, defeated by Faisal al-Duwish of the Mutair. They were defeated at the battle of Sibilla.

The "expected Mahdi" who, they say, is leading them, is a figure who appears in the Hadith, or recorded sayings of Muhammad, rather than in the Koran. He is not strictly a messiah, but he was prophesied as a divinely inspired human who would cleanse Islam.

The appearance of a claimant is a regular feature at the beginning of each Muslim century. The Mad Mahdi, whose men killed General Gordon in the Sudan, appeared at the beginning of the last century.

The belief is common to all Islam. There is a tradition that the Mahdi will appear in the fifteenth century and be proclaimed after dawn prayers by the Kaaba. The people of Mecca will try to kill him, but he will triumph and go on to liberate Jerusalem.

US families to leave Islamabad embassy

From Hasan Akhtar
Islamabad, Nov 22

About 80 families of American diplomatic officials in Islamabad are leaving by chartered aircraft tomorrow after the violent anti-American demonstrations in Pakistan yesterday. Non-essential staff members of the Embassy are also being taken back to Washington.

Mr Arthur Hummel, the American Ambassador, who has set up his temporary office in the United States aid office, told foreign journalists today that there was no intention of breaking relations with Pakistan because of yesterday's attacks on American missions in Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore.

However, Mr Hummel said that prompter action by Pakistan authorities could have prevented much of the damage to life and property in Islamabad.

The Ambassador confirmed that the bodies of two unidentified Americans and Warrant Officer Brian Ellis had been found today in the Embassy buildings. A Marine guard was also killed in the attack by crowds angry at reports of American involvement in the occupation of the Great Mosque in Mecca.

Smoke was still coming from part of the embassy building here today. The American Centre in Rawalpindi and the British Council Library were also the target of arsonists while two schools, including a British missionary-run institution, were also attacked.

The Pakistan Government today announced that it would strengthen forces protecting all diplomatic missions. President Zia ul-Haq visited some of the buildings set on fire yesterday.

The Cabinet has also ordered an inquiry into yesterday's incidents to find out if the situation was exploited by "vested interests".

Today the city and the capital were heavily patrolled by the troops. Most life was normal but a part of the main shopping area was closed for the second day.

Pakistan radio said that President Carter had expressed appreciation to General Zia by telephone for sending in troops to protect the Americans during the demonstrations.

Mr Vance meets returning group of 13 hostages

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Nov 22

The 13 hostages released in Tehran returnted to the United States this morning, in time for Thanksgiving.

They were met at the airport by Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, who said that the Government's chief concern must be to obtain the release of the remaining hostages being held by militant Muslim students.

The 13 have yet to meet the press and give an account of the conditions under which they were held. A White House spokesman said yesterday: "It is clear that they were subjected to very sophisticated and subtle techniques, and it is also clear that their treatment has been at the very least somewhat more harsh than had been previously reported."

A State Department spokesman said today that in the mob attacks yesterday on the American Embassy in Islamabad, there had been a six-hour delay between the time of the first attack and the arrival of the Pakistani army in sufficient force to rescue the 110 or so people who had taken refuge in a strong-room on the chancery's second floor.

He declined to criticize the Pakistani authorities for the delay and said that the Government was offering every possible cooperation and reassurance to the Americans.

Five more freed: Students occupying the United States embassy in Tehran today freed five more of their hostages, saying there was no evidence that they were spies.

A spokesman said that the men freed this afternoon included one from the Philippines and one each from Bangladesh, Pakistan and South Korea. The Pakistani offered to stay with the Embassy to cook for the remaining American hostages, if he was paid. His offer was accepted.—Reuter.

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Persia. The niceness of the setting of present events is being remarked on here.

It is still too early to assess the outcome of the situation. A Zaidi, a religious ruling with the force of law, has been declared that the Beduin have put themselves "outside Islam" by their action, a sin for which death is prescribed in the Koran.

Whatever happens, the complacent belief that the tribes have been effectively won over in Saudi Arabia has now been shattered. So, too, has the hope that Muslim fundamentalism has been satisfied.

There are an estimated 500,000 Beduin in Saudi Arabia. They are frequent recipients of royal largesse in cash and employment, but the past few years have seen the economic basis of nomadic existence destroyed. One official explained recently that they feel