

11
Tlx 330
23 March 1979

46626 BAYT IL
12.54

23666363+
WUI 03/23 0554
BICNY 666363UW

→ BIC - *Persecution Iran*

JUST RECEIVED FOLLOWING NSA USA QUOTE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT EXTRACT FROM MACNEIL/LEHRER REPORT MARCH 19 REFERRING TO BAHAI'S. INCLUDED PANEL WITH ROUHANI WERE JIM YUENGER, CORRESPONDENT CHICAGO TRIBUNE AND LOIS BECK, EDITOR, WOMEN IN A MOSLEM WORLD. MODERATORS WERE ROBERT MACNEIL AND CHARLAYNE HUNTER-GAULT.

MACNEIL: MR. YUENGER YOU HAVE JUST BEEN IN IRAN. OTHER MINORITIES IN IRAN - RACIAL MINORITIES LIKE THE JEWS OR THE BAHAI - HAVE EXPRESSED AND BEEN REPORTED TO FEAR GREATLY WHAT THEIR FUTURE WILL BE. WERE YOU AWARE OF THOSE CONCERNS WHEN YOU WERE THERE?

YUENGER: YES I WAS, AND I REMEMBER DURING THE RIOTING LAST NOVEMBER - I WAS ABSOLUTELY HORRIFIED AND I REMAIN HAUNTED BY THE SIGHT OF SIGNS ON HOUSES DURING THE RIOTING THAT SAID ON THE FRONT DOOR - 'NO FOREIGNERS, NO JEWS, NO BAHAI'S LIVE IN THIS HOUSE.' I THINK THAT'S VERY SCARY. I THINK IT'S CONTINUING.

MACNEIL: MR. ROUHANI, WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE JEWS AND THE BAHAI'S AS MINORITIES GOING TO BE?

ROUHANI: THE MINORITIES - JEWS, CHRISTIANS, ANYONE - ANYONE WHO IS IN IRANIAN MUSLIM MAJORITIES - THEY ARE IRANIANS AND THEY HAVE AS MUCH RIGHT TO IRAN AND TO FREEDOM AS ANYBODY ELSE IN IRAN. AND THOSE ISOLATED INSTANCES THAT THE OTHER GENTLEMAN MENTIONED CERTAINLY CANNOT BE GENERALIZED. IT IS TO BE MENTIONED WHEN AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI WENT TO IRAN, EVEN PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO IRAN, THERE HAVE BEEN STRONG STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FROM THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AND THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS.

MACNEIL: AND WHAT ABOUT THE BAHAI'S?

ROUHANI: WELL, WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE BAHAI'S AS A, YOU KNOW, RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY BUT THEY THEMSELVES CAN CONSIDER THEMSELVES RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY, MINORITY. THEY CAN HAVE FULL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, POLITICAL FREEDOM, ETC. AND NOBODY IN IRAN HAS EVER DONE THAT AND WILL NOT JUST COME AND JEOPARDIZE THE FREEDOM BASED UPON THEIR BELIEFS WHATEVER THAT IS.

MACNEIL: WELL, IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE SAYING, MR. ROUHANI, THAT THE ISLAMIC STATE THAT YOU HOPE WILL MATERIALIZE WHEN ALL THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS IS GONE THROUGH WILL TOLERATE DISSENT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DISSENT.

ROUHANI: PRECISELY, SO LONG AS IN FACT THEY CAN FORM PARTIES, THEY CAN JUST, YOU KNOW, JUST PRESENT NOMINEES, ETC., SO LONG AS THEY DO NOT CONSPIRE AND ENGAGE IN ARMED STRUGGLE AGAINST THE RIGHT OF THE MAJORITY, THEN THEY ARE ALLOWED TO DO THAT. IN FACT, WE THINK THEY SHOULD NOT DO THAT BECAUSE THEY WILL DESTROY THE RIGHTS OF OTHER MINORITIES AND THE MAJORITY. SO IT IS A GENUINE FULL PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY AND WILL RESULT IN THAT IN THE END. UNQUOTE

HAVE ADVISED NSA US TO SEND LETTER ROUHANI THANKING ASSURANCES RELIGIOUS CIVIL FREEDOM BAHAI'S IRAN REITERATING PRINCIPLES LOYALTY GOVERNMENT NONPOLITICAL CHARACTER FAITH AND IMPORTANCE IRAN TO BAHAI'S WORLD OVER UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

46626 BAYT IL

BICNY 666363UW

BP000678

4367
AC-AN
X-17Z
X-CW
X-HF
X-LJ

FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT EXTRACT FROM MACNEIL/LEHRER REPORT MARCH 19 REFERRING TO BAHAI'S. INCLUDED PANEL WITH ROUHANI WERE JIM YUENGER, CORRESPONDENT CHICAGO TRIBUNE AND LOIS BECK, EDITOR, WOMEN IN A MOSLEM WORLD. MODERATORS WERE ROBERT MACNEIL AND CHARLAYNE HUNTER-GAULT.

RM: MR. YUENGER YOU HAVE JUST BEEN IN IRAN. OTHER MINORITIES IN IRAN - RACIAL MINORITIES LIKE THE JEWS OR THE BAHAI - HAVE EXPRESSED AND BEEN REPORTED TO FEAR GREATLY WHAT THEIR FUTURE WILL BE. WERE YOU AWARE OF THOSE CONCERNS WHEN YOU WERE THERE?

JY: YES I WAS, AND I REMEMBER DURING THE RIOTING LAST NOVEMBER - I WAS ABSOLUTELY HORRIFIED AND I REMAIN HAUNTED BY THE SIGHT OF SIGNS ON HOUSES DURING THE RIOTING THAT SAID ON THE FRONT DOOR - 'NO FOREIGNERS, NO JEWS, NO BAHAI'S LIVE IN THIS HOUSE.' I THINK THAT'S VERY SCARY. I THINK IT'S CONTINUING.

RM: MR. ROUHANI, WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE JEWS AND THE BAHAI'S AS MINORITIES GOING TO BE?

SR: THE MINORITIES - JEWS, CHRISTIANS, ANYONE - ANYONE WHO IS IN IRANIAN MUSLIM MAJORITIES - THEY ARE IRANIANS AND THEY HAVE AS MUCH RIGHT TO IRAN AND TO FREEDOM AS ANYBODY ELSE IN IRAN. AND THOSE ISOLATED INSTANCES THAT THE OTHER GENTLEMAN MENTIONED CERTAINLY CANNOT BE GENERALIZED. IT IS TO BE MENTIONED WHEN AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI WENT TO IRAN, EVEN PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO IRAN, THERE HAVE BEEN STRONG STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FROM THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AND THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS.

RM: AND WHAT ABOUT THE BAHAI'S?

SR: WELL, WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE BAHAI'S AS A, YOU KNOW, RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY BUT THEY THEMSELVES CAN CONSIDER THEMSELVES RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY, MINORITY. THEY CAN HAVE FULL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, POLITICAL FREEDOM, ETC. AND NOBODY IN IRAN HAS EVER DONE THAT AND WILL NOT JUST COME AND JEOPARDIZE THE FREEDOM BASED UPON THEIR BELIEFS WHATEVER THAT IS.

RM: WELL, IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE SAYING, MR. ROUHANI, THAT THE ISLAMIC STATE THAT YOU HOPE WILL MATERIALIZE WHEN ALL THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS IS GONE THROUGH WILL TOLERATE DISSENT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DISSENT.

SR: PRECISELY, SO LONG AS IN FACT THEY CAN FORM PARTIES, THEY CAN JUST, YOU KNOW, JUST PRESENT NOMINEES, ETC., SO LONG AS THEY DO NOT CONSPIRE AND ENGAGE IN ARMED STRUGGLE AGAINST THE RIGHT OF THE MAJORITY, THEN THEY ARE ALLOWED TO DO THAT. IN FACT, WE THINK THEY SHOULD NOT DO THAT BECAUSE THEY WILL DESTROY THE RIGHTS OF OTHER MINORITIES AND THE MAJORITY. SO IT IS A GENUINE FULL PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY AND WILL RESULT IN THAT IN THE END.

BAHAI WILMETTE

#

46626 BAYT IL.....

ABOVE VIA RCA MAR 22 1837 807714 FROM BAHAI WIMTT#