April 22, 1980

To the Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

Dear Sir/Madam:

Once again the New York Times has served the American people well by its disclosures concerning General Huyser's mission to Iran in January 1979 (N.Y. Times, April 20). At the time of the Shah's departure from Iran, our Government was actively, if abortively, involved in masterminding a military coup in that country— one more instance of U. S. foreign policy by subversion instead of diplomacy.

The revelation of General Huyser's mission has some significant implications.

Concerning the negotiations to obtain the release of the American hostages, it should now be clear that such negotiations should deal with the substance and history of American policy in Iran. Useful negotiations cannot take place unless the U.S. Government makes a clean breast of its entire involvement, deals honestly with the Iranian people, offers reparations for its role in the Shah's govern, and renounces any future interference.

More generally, it is clear that the practice of foreign policy by subversion, besides being immoral, is subject to disastrous failures and should be abandoned. Respect for the United States can be restored only in the framework of a foreign policy based on mutual respect and open dealings among nations.

Noam Chomsky

S. E. Luria