

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

9 FEBRUARY 1981

1-885/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr PROVAN, Sir Fred CATHERWOOD, Mr CURRY,
Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS, Lady ELLES, Mr FERGUSSON,
Lord BETHELL, Mr TYRRELL, Mr PRAG, Mr BEYER de RYKE,
Mrs BOOT, Mr COLLINS, Mrs BUCHAN, Mr de COURCY LING,
Mr HOPPER, Mrs EWING, Mr HAAGERUP, Mr R JACKSON,
Miss HOOPER, Mr DALZIEL, Mr LOUWES, Mr HUTTON,
Mr C JACKSON, Mr MARSHALL, Mr PURVIS, Mr DIANA,
Sir Henry PLUMB, Mr BATTERSBY, Mr SHERLOCK, Mr PROUT,
Mr MAHER, Mr BANGEMANN and Mr BISMARCK

with request for urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on the British prisoners held in Iran

The European Parliament,

- acutely aware of the delicate situation in Iran and the Middle East,
- welcoming the release of the American hostages,
- having regard to the resolution of the European Parliament adopted on 19 September 1980, (Doc. 1-397/80 rev.),

1. Calls on the Iranian authorities to release the British prisoners held in Iran immediately;
2. Urges the Council to support the efforts of the Iranian authorities to regain stability in their country and to point out that friendly relations can only be resumed following the return of the British prisoners to the United Kingdom;
3. Urges the Iranian authorities to uphold basic human rights in their country, without national or religious persecution, so that full relations can be resumed;
4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, the Governments of the Member States and the Iranian authorities.

JUSTIFICATION

The British prisoners, three of whom are missionaries, have been held without charge or trial since July. Many in authority have stated that there are no charges against the prisoners, and that they can be released but no action has been forthcoming. Diplomatic pressure is mounting and the European Parliament's resolution will greatly assist, as diplomats have no access to those held, and these prisoners are held in circumstances where their rights are not recognized and in conditions that everyone would regard as wrong.