STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

AUGUST 23, 1951

I have been most disappointed to learn of the suspension of the negotiations in Tehran between the British delegation and the Iranian Government which we had hoped would lead to a settlement of the Iranian oil question.

Since these conversations have been suspended rather than completely broken off, it remains my hope that a solution will eventually be found agreeable to both parties. It has been clear during the course of negotiations that both Iran and Great Britain sincerely desire a settlement and in view of this fact, I am confident that an arrangement can ultimately be worked out.

Mr. Harriman has worked long and tirelessly in an effort to bring the parties together and to set the stage for a settlement, and his activities have had my complete support. His letter to Prime Minister Mossadeq of August 21 summarizes very clearly the American point of view on the steps which led to the suspension of the conversations and the views that Mr. Harriman put forward reflect my own.