

GR 250

CONFIDENTIAL

*Prime Minister*

CONFIDENTIAL

FM KABUL 210446Z

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NO 252 OF 21 AUGUST 80.

INFO ROUTINE ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, UKDEL .  
NATO, MODUK (DI4).

INFO SAVING TO UKMIS NEW YORK.

*MA 21/8*

*MF*

MY TELEGRAM NO 248 : AFGHANISTAN : SITREP.  
POLITICAL.

1. A SPECIAL ENVOY FROM PRESIDENT CEAUCESCU OF ROMANIA HAS BEEN IN KABUL FOR 2 DAYS AND HAD TALKS WITH BABRAK, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER KESHTMAND AND FOREIGN MINISTER DOST. THE VISIT IS GIVING RISE TO SPECULATION THAT SOME ROMANIAN INITIATIVE OVER AFGHANISTAN IS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

2. THE SIXTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE WAS CELEBRATED ON 19 AUGUST. BABRAK'S SPEECH SAID THAT BRITISH IMPERIALISM HAD NOW BEEN REPLACED BY AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND REPEATED THE PROMISE THAT THE LIMITED CONTINGENT OF SOVIET TROOPS WOULD BE WITHDRAWN WHEN SUITABLE GUARANTEES OF NON-INTERFERENCE WERE GIVEN. A DISPLAY OF CAPTURED WEAPONS WAS PUT ON AND A STATEMENT MADE ACCUSING THE US, BRITAIN, CHINA AND OTHER REACTIONARIES OF USING PAKISTAN AS A BASE FOR UNDECLARED WAR AGAINST AFGHANISTAN AND OF USING CHEMICAL WEAPONS. INTERNAL SECURITY.

3. THERE ARE RELIABLE REPORTS OF HEAVY SHELLING BY SOVIET/AFGHAN FORCES FROM THE EARLY HOURS OF 20 AUGUST ONWARDS AROUND THE VILLAGE OF SHAKADARA, SOME 20 KMS NORTH OF KABUL, AND FROM THERE FURTHER NORTH THROUGH MIR BACCHAKOT TO BAGRAM. THIS AREA HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF FIGHTING SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS (MY TELEGRAM NO 219).

PRESS DISTRIBUTION.

NO RESTRICTION.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO UKMIS NEW YORK.

HOWELL

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

AFGHANISTAN

STANDARD

SAD

EESD

NAD

MED

NENAD

FED

SED

SEAD

UND

ERD

ECD (E)

WED

TRED

CABINET OFFICE

[NOT ADVANCED]

CONFIDENTIAL