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FM MOSCOW 061340Z MAR 80
TO FLASH F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 190 OF 6TH MARCH

MIPT: AFGHANISTAN NEUTRALITY.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT:
''CERTAINLY THE IDEA AS SUCH OF SEARCHING FOR POLITICAL WAYS TO ELIMINATE THE TENSION AROUND AFGHANISTAN RAISES NO OBJECTION. HOWEVER, THE CONSIDERATIONS PUT FORWARD BY THE BRITISH SIDE ON THAT SCORE ARE FAR FROM CORRESPONDING TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SAID GOAL SINCE THEY IGNORE THE ACTUAL REASONS OF THE OBTAINING SITUATION AND DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE REALITIES OF THE EXISTING STATE OF AFFAIRS BOTH IN AFGHANISTAN AND AROUND IT. ABOVE ALL, ONE CANNOT SPEAK SERIOUSLY ABOUT ANY POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THE AFGHAN PROBLEM WITHOUT A COMPLETE AND GUARANTEED CESSATION OF ALL FORMS OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE, INCLUDING ARMED INTERFERENCE, DIRECTED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN, THAT IS WITHOUT REMOVING THE CAUSES WHICH ARE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE TENSION AROUND AFGHANISTAN. IN THAT, AND ONLY IN THAT, CASE, THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE PREPARED TO COMMENCE WITHDRAWING FROM AFGHANISTAN ITS TROOPS WHICH ARE THERE AT THE REQUEST OF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT TO RENDER IT ASSISTANCE IN REPELLING AGGRESSION. FURTHERMORE, IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE INTERNAL STATUS AND THE SOCIAL SYSTEM OF AFGHANISTAN, AS WELL AS TO THE COMPOSITION OF ITS GOVERNMENT, CANNOT BE A MATTER OF ANY POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.THAT WOULD CONSTITUTE AN INADMISSIBLE INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A SOVEREIGN STATE AND MUST BE RESOLUTELY REJECTED. FINALLY, FOR THE SAME REASON IT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION IN GENERAL FOR MATTERS RELATING TO AFGHANISTAN TO BE DISCUSSED AND DECIDED BY SOMEBODY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN AND WITHOUT ITS PARTICIPATION. IT IS A MATTER OF COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION OFFICIALLY EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO ESTABLISH WITH ITS NEIGHBOURING STATES RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF EQUAL RIGHTS, NON-INTERFERENCE, AND RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH OTHER. /THE SOVIET

THE SOVIET UNION, FOR ITS PART, WELCOMES THAT POLICY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN. THUS IT IS NOW UP TO THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE SUBVERSIVE ANTI-AFGHAN ACTIVITIES AND IN THE AGGRESSION UNLEASHED AGAINST AFGHANISTAN TO CEASE THAT AGGRESSION AND TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN. WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THIS IF IT IS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN THE REMOVAL OF TENSION AROUND AFGHANISTAN.''

KEEBLE

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TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 188 OF 6 MARCH

AFGHANISTAN.

ZEMSKOV INVITED ME TO SEE HIM THIS AFTERNOON. HE REFERRED TO OUR EARLIER CONVERSATION AND THEN READ OVER AN ORAL COMMUNICATION WHICH LUNKOV IS BEING INSTRUCTED TO MAKE TODAY. TEXT IS IN MIFT. [SIC ? TELNO 190]

2. I THANKED ZEMSKOV FOR HIS COURTESY IN GIVING ME PRIOR INFORMATION. I SAID THAT I RECOGNISED THAT THE SUBSTANTIVE COMMUNICATION WOULD BE MADE IN LONDON AND THAT ANY SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT WOULD BE GIVEN THERE. HE KNEW MY VIEW ON THE CAUSES OF THE PRESENT SITUATION. I WOULD NOT GO OVER THAT GROUND AGAIN. I THEN MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ON A PERSONAL BASIS:

A) I NOTED THE REFERENCE TO ''COMMENCING'' WITHDRAWAL. I THOUGHT THIS WOULD ALSO STRIKE YOU. SEMSKOV IN REPLY IMPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS LIMITATION.(BUT OF COURSE THERE IS)

B) I NOTED THE REFERENCE TO A ''GUARANTEED CESSATION''. I HAD WONDERED AFTER OUR EARLIER DISCUSSION WHETHER THE EMPHASIS WAS ON THE CESSATION OR THE GUARANTEE. IF THE FORMER IT MIGHT BE SAID THAT WHAT DID NOT EXIST MIGHT STOP. ZEMSKOV SAID IT WAS BOTH. BUT WHAT MATTERED WAS THE FACT.THERE WAS NO POINT IN EMPTY DECLARATIONS.

C) THERE WERE TWO POINTS IN MY EARLIER REMARKS WHICH I THOUGHT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN FULLY NOTED:

I) THE REFERENCE NOT ONLY TO NEUTRALITY BUT ALSO TO NON ALIGNMENT. ZEMSKOV CONFIRMED THAT THIS HAD BEEN NOTED AND ADDED THAT AFGHANISTAN HAD DECLARED ITSELF NON ALIGNED. I SAID THAT THIS WAS INDEED WHY THE REFERENCE WAS THERE.

II) THE REFERENCE TO FLEXIBILITY OF NEGOTIATING ARRANGEMENTS. THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF INFRINGING AFGHANISTAN'S SOVEREIGNTY. THERE COULD VERY WELL BE MATCHING DECLARATIONS, ONE BY AFGHANISTAN AND OTHERS' BY THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. ZEMSKOV SAID HE COULD ADD NOTHING TO THE STATEMENT

3. PLEASE DO NOT INDICATE THAT YOU HAVE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF LUNKOV'S INSTRUCTIONS AND DO NOT INFORM THE PRESS OF MY CALL

KEEBLE

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