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FM KABUL 280438Z

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NO 259 OF 28 AUGUST 80.

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

INFO SAVING TO UKMIS NEW YORK.

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Prime Minister

Afghanistan *MA 28/8*

no

MY TELEGRAM NO 254 : AFGHANISTAN : SITREP.

POLITICAL.

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CALL ON HIM BY THE NEW FRG CHARGE
ON 26 AUGUST, SOVIET AMBASSADOR TABEYEV MADE THE FOLLOWING
POINTS :

- (A) SOVIET TROOPS WERE IN AFGHANISTAN ONLY AS ADVISERS,
TO HELP REBUILD THE AFGHAN ARMY. THEY WOULD BE
WITHDRAWN "AND THE TIME FOR THIS IS NOT FAR AWAY".
- (B) THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT WAS GETTING INCREASED SUPPORT
IN THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY IN RELIGIOUS CIRCLES.
HE ATTRIBUTED THIS IN PART TO THE SUCCESSFUL VISITS
BEING PAID BY GROUPS OF CLERGY TO THE USSR.
- (C) INTERNAL STABILITY WOULD BE ESTABLISHED BY THE END OF
THIS YEAR AND THEREAFTER BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH
IRAN AND PAKISTAN, FOR WHICH THE GROUND WAS ALREADY
PREPARED, WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.
- (D) PAKISTAN OUGHT TO SEAL HER BORDERS IF SHE WANTED TO
LIVE IN PEACE. THE PAKISTANI REGIME WAS WEAK, COULD
BE TOPPLED WITHOUT DIFFICULTY AND THE SOVIETS HAD THE
MEANS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THAT TOPPLING. THE DURAND LINE
WAS ANOTHER REASON FOR PAKISTAN TO BE VERY CAREFUL.
FOR THE SOVIETS TO SEAL THE BORDER WOULD TAKE AT LEAST
20 FULLY EQUIPPED DIVISIONS.
- (E) THE SUPPLY OF WEAPONS TO THE REBELS COULD CREATE A
DANGEROUS SITUATION. THE RUSSIANS HAD EVIDENCE
OF THE SUPPLY OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS AND IF ANY OF
'OUR' PLANES WAS BROUGHT DOWN, THIS COULD NOT GO
WITHOUT RETRIBUTION. SOME OF THE WEAPONS HAD BEEN
SOVIET GIFTS TO THE EGYPTIANS AND WERE BEING REPLACED
WITH THE EGYPTIANS BY AMERICAN ARMS.

2. THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMENT LOCALLY ON THE REPORT ON THE
BBC FARSI SERVICE ON 26 AUGUST THAT A FURTHER FOUR MINISTERS IN
AMIN'S GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN EXECUTED.

3. A 60-MEMBER DELEGATION OF WORKERS AND TRADE UNION MEMBERS
HAS LEFT FOR A TOUR OF EAST GERMANY. A FURTHER GROUP OF 100
CLERGY HAS LEFT FOR THE USSR.

4. A POLITBURO RESOLUTION HAS INSTRUCTED THE CENTRAL COUNCIL
OF THE UNIONS OF AFGHANISTAN TO DRAW UP A CHARTER OF CRAFT
UNIONS. ALL PLACES OF WORK WILL BE OBLIGED TO PROVIDE A
FULLY-EQUIPPED ROOM FOR UNION ACTIVITIES AND FREE TRANSPORTATION

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AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES FOR THE UNION. 1.5 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL SUM OF SALARIES WILL HAVE TO BE SPENT FOR "CULTURAL AND PUBLIC SPORTS PURPOSES". DISCRIMINATION AGAINST UNION MEMBERS WILL BE FORBIDDEN, STANDARDISED CONTRACT OF WORK WILL BE INTRODUCED AND A LABOUR LAW WILL BE DRAFTED.

5. THE DECISIONS OF THE 3RD PLENUM CONTINUE TO BE PUBLICIZED AND EMPHASIZED AT MEETINGS AROUND THE COUNTRY. THE PURPOSE SEEMS TO BE OF A PART WITH THE PUBLICITY GIVEN OF LATE TO RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES, TO ADDUCE, BY STRESSING THE THREAT, AN EXPLANATION FOR THE LEAVY ATTACKS BEING LAUNCHED IN MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

6. A WIDESPREAD BLOOD DONOR CAMPAIGN, LESS THAN WHOLLY VOLUNTARY, IS UNDER WAY. MANY AFGHANS, WHO HAVE NOT BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE FREE DISTRIBUTION OF SOVIET CONSUMER GOODS, NOW SAY THEY ARE BEING MADE TO PAY FOR USELESS PAIR OF SHOES WITH THEIR BLOOD.

INTERNAL SECURITY.

7. HEAVY FIGHTING WITH MANY CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES WAS RELIABLY REPORTED 3 DAYS AGO IN KAPISA PROVINCE, AROUND THE TOWNS OF NEJRAB ANND TAGAB.

8. AIR ACTIVITY OUT OF KABUL REMAINS LIGHT. AUTOMATIC SMALL ARMS FIRE IS HEARD SPORADICALLY, BOTH BY DAY AND BY NIGHT, AND ORANGE FLARES ARE SEEN BY NIGHT IN THE SKY OVER CERTAIN AREAS OF TOWN.

9. THE ROAD TO JALALABAD HAS BEEN REOPENED.

10. WE RECEIVE AN INCREASING NUMBER OF REPORTS OF INDISCIPLINE AMONGST SOVIET TROOPS, IN KABUL AND IN THE PROVINCES, THE REPORTS ARE USUALLY OF FORCED ENTRY, RAPE AND LOOTING.

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11. PARA 1 IS NOT SUITABLE FOR THE PRESS.

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THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

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