

GRS 280

S E C R E T

SECRET

DEDIP

BURNING BUSH

FROM ROME 040300Z MAY 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 134 OF 04 MAY 81

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, MOSCOW, DELHI, ISLAMABAD
UKMIS NEW YORK (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR/HIGH COMMISSIONER)

QUADRIPARTITE MINISTERIAL DINNER IN ROME, 3 MAY:

AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN/INDIA

FOLLOWING FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

1. LORD CARRINGTON ASKED WHAT COULD BE DONE TO DISPEL THE IMPRESSION THAT THE WEST WAS COMING ROUND TO ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN. HE SUGGESTED THAT SOMETHING ON THE LINES OF GISCARD'S IDEA OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WOULD DO NO HARM AND WOULD KEEP THE ISSUE BEFORE THE PUBLIC AND THE UNITED NATIONS.

2. HAIG THOUGHT THAT THIS SHOULD BE CLEARED FIRST WITH THE PAKISTANIS. THEIR VIEW WAS CRUCIAL. THEY HAD SEEMED VERY WORRIED A FEW WEEKS AGO, BUT THEY WERE HAPPIER NOW THAT THE SAUDIS HAD PROMISED THEM 5 BILLION DOLLARS. THE UNITED STATES WAS ALSO GIVING 100 MILLION DOLLARS THIS YEAR AND 2 BILLION OVER 5 YEARS. THIS WOULD MAKE MRS GHANDI NERVOUS, BUT INDIA ALREADY HAD BOTH MORE TROOPS AND MORE EQUIPMENT, AND WAS BELIEVED TO BE ABOUT TO CONCLUDE ANOTHER ARMS DEAL WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

3. FRANCOIS PONCET SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT GISCARD'S PROPOSAL HAD BEEN LAUNCHED BUT NOT PUSHED. AFTER THE FRENCH ELECTION IT WOULD BE REVIVED. BUT HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN IDEA OF THE GENERAL PICTURE. IF THERE WERE TO BE SOVIET CONCESSIONS, THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE PART OF A PACKAGE DEAL.

4. LORD CARRINGTON SUGGESTED THAT IF THE SOVIET UNION INTERVENED BY FORCE IN POLAND, THE 4 POWERS SHOULD STATE OPENLY THAT THEY WOULD HELP THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE. GENSHER THOUGHT THAT WORLD PUBLIC OPINION DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE WEST HAD NOT RESPONDED TO AFGHAN CALLS FOR HELP. THIS WAS A POLITICAL WEAPON, AND THE WEST SHOULD NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT IT WAS SELF-EVIDENTLY IMPOSSIBLE.

ARCULUS

LIMITED

HD/PLANNING STAFF

HD/SAD

HD/EESD

HD/NAD

HD/MED

PS/PUS

MR BULLARD

MR FERGUSSON

SIR J GRAHAM

MR DAY

MR URE

MR J MOBERLY

PS ✓
PS/UPS

S E C R E T