

SUBJECT

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 475

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 020230Z

FM F C O 011950Z MAR 80

TO IMMEDIATE ISLAMABAD

TELEGRAM NO 307 OF 1 MARCH

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK, UKDEL NATO, WASHINGTON.

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. 742/80

FCO TELNO 126 TO ANKARA

MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT ZIA.

PLEASE ARRANGE DELIVERY OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM
THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT ZIA A S A P.

BEGINS:

DURING LORD CARRINGTON'S TALKS WITH YOU ON 15 JANUARY, YOU DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS PAKISTAN HAD FACED SINCE AFGHANISTAN'S TRADITIONAL NEUTRAL STATUS HAD BEEN ERODED. WE HAVE HAD YOUR REMARKS MUCH IN MIND DURING THE WORK WE HAVE BEEN DOING ON THE PROBLEM IN RECENT WEEKS. I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE RIGHT TO TELL YOU THAT THEY HAVE BEEN AN IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ON THE WORK WE HAVE BEEN DOING.

WE ARE TELLING THE RUSSIANS THAT IN OUR VIEW THE INTERESTS OF WORLD STABILITY AND OF FRUITFUL EAST/WEST RELATIONS WOULD BE GREATLY ADVANCED BY AN AGREED SOLUTION TO THE CONTINUING PROBLEM IN AFGHANISTAN. THAT COUNTRY HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN NEUTRAL. THE SOVIET UNION HAS APPROVED ITS NEUTRALITY. FOR INSTANCE IN OCTOBER 1963 MR BREZHNEV SAID: QUOTE IN THE SOVIET UNION THE POLICY OF NEUTRALITY AND NO PARTICIPATION IN MILITARY BLOCs PURSUED BY AFGHANISTAN IS HIGHLY VALUED. THANKS TO THIS POLICY AFGHANISTAN WAS GREATLY RESPECTED IN THE WORLD. UNQUOTE.

WE HAVE NOTED THE SOVIET UNION'S EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ABOUT SECURITY ON ITS SOUTHERN BORDER AND THE SOVIET POSITION, RESTATED BY PRESIDENT BREZHNEV IN HIS SPEECH ON 22 FEBRUARY, THAT SOVIET FORCES WILL WITHDRAW ONCE THE CLAIMED REASONS FOR THEIR PRESENCE NO LONGER EXIST. WE HAVE ALSO NOTED MR GROMYKO'S STATEMENT ON 14 FEBRUARY THAT THERE ARE QUOTE NO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS UNQUOTE UPON WHICH THE SOVIET UNION WOULD NOT BE READY FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON AN EQUAL BASIS. WE HAD ALSO NOTED VERY RECENT PRESS REPORTS SUGGESTING THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

1/2

CONFIDENTIAL

WE BELIEVE, AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THAT THE IDEA OF AFGHANISTAN RESUMING ITS TRADITIONAL NEUTRALITY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ON A FLEXIBLE BASIS, AS A SERIOUS APPROACH TO A POSSIBLE SOLUTION WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE CONSIDERED VERY CAREFULLY.

THE ELEMENTS IN A NEUTRALITY ARRANGEMENT MIGHT INCLUDE UNDERTAKINGS ASSUMED BY AFGHANISTAN ON AN APPROPRIATE NEUTRAL AND NON-ALIGNED STATUS. I SHOULD LIKE TO EMPHASISE THAT OUR IDEAS IN NO WAY EXCLUDE AFGHANISTAN REMAINING A MEMBER OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. THERE COULD IN ADDITION BE UNDERTAKINGS, IN LINE WITH PRESIDENT BREZHNEV'S SPEECH OF 22 FEBRUARY, BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE NEIGHBOURS OF AFGHANISTAN, AND PERHAPS OTHER COUNTRIES, THAT THEY WILL RESPECT THE UNDERTAKINGS BY AFGHANISTAN AND WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THAT COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS: AS WELL AS OTHER PROVISIONS TO BE DISCUSSED.

OUR IDEAS HAVE NOT BEEN WORKED OUT IN DETAIL. WE ARE NOT PROPOSING A CUT AND DRIED ARRANGEMENT. ANY SUGGESTIONS BY PAKISTAN AND INDEED OTHER COUNTRIES, WILL BE WELCOME AND WILL BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY INTO ACCOUNT. WE ARE ALSO OPEN MINDED ABOUT THE SEQUENCE IN WHICH ALL THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS IN A NEUTRALITY ARRANGEMENT MIGHT BE PUT IN PLACE. IN OUR VIEW NEITHER SIDE SHOULD ASK THE OTHER TO DO SOMETHING FIRST. ALL SHOULD STEP FORWARD TOGETHER. REPORTS THAT OUR PROPOSALS ARE CLOSELY MODELLED ON THE AUSTRIAN STATE TREATY OF NEUTRALITY ARE NOT TRUE. THAT IS SIMPLY ONE OF A NUMBER OF PRECEDENTS WHICH REQUIRES STUDY.

OUR THINKING IS FLEXIBLE ON PROCEDURE TOO. WE WOULD NOT EXCLUDE THE NEED IN DUE COURSE FOR SOME SPECIAL CONFERENCE, BUT DISCUSSION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS MIGHT BE ANOTHER POSSIBILITY.

WHILE IT IS OBVIOUSLY RIGHT TO PURSUE THIS EFFORT TO WORK OUT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE SHOULD RELAX OUR PRESSURE ON THE RUSSIANS. AND WE MUST ALSO CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN OUR CO-OPERATION. ENDS

CARRINGTON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

SAD	WED
ERSD	TRED
N AM D	SEAD
MED	UND
NEHAD	FED
FED	EOC (E)
SED	CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRN.

AFGHANISTAN

2
CONFIDENTIAL