

GR 280  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FM FCO 151203Z MAY 80  
TO F L A S H VIENNA  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 85 OF 15 MAY.

MY 21PTS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY FCO SPOKESMAN 15 MAY:

1. FROM ACCOUNTS WE HAVE SEEN THE PROPOSAL SHOWS LITTLE IF ANY CHANGE FROM THE PREVIOUS SOVIET AND AFGHAN POSITION. IT WOULD RESULT IN CONFIRMATION OF THE STATUS QUO SINCE THE KABUL REGIME WOULD OBTAIN PAKISTANI AND IRANIAN RECOGNITION AND SECURE FRONTIERS WITH THOSE COUNTRIES BEFORE THE SOVIET UNION GAVE ANY UNDERTAKING TO WITHDRAW. THE ARRANGEMENT FORESEEN WOULD CONTAIN NOTHING ABOUT THE SOVIET/AFGHAN FRONTIER SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ASSURANCE THAT THE RUSSIANS, IF THEY WITHDREW, WOULD NOT INVADE AGAIN.

2. NONETHELESS IT IS SATISFACTORY THAT THE RUSSIANS SEEM PREPARED TO CONTEMPLATE A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT RATHER THAN RELYING ON BRUTE FORCE. THIS SHOWS THE VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE.

3. HOWEVER, THE PROPOSAL IS BASED ON THE UNFOUNDED ALLEGATION THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN RESULTS FROM OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE BY THE UNITED STATES AND OTHERS. AS WAS RECOGNISED BY 104 MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE PRESENT CRISIS HAS ARISEN BECAUSE OF THE SOVIET INVASION. THEIR TROOPS MUST BE WITHDRAWN AND AFGHANISTAN MUST REGAIN ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE OF A NEUTRAL AND GENUINELY NON-ALIGNED STATE. THIS CONCEPT WHICH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAS ADVANCED, AND WHICH HAS BEEN ATTRACTING WIDE SUPPORT AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, OFFERS AN EQUITABLE AND EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

UNATTRIBUTABLE

4. THE AFGHAN PROPOSAL SEEMS TO BE A TACTICAL PLOY AIMED AT INFLUENCING VIEWS BEFORE THE FORTHCOMING ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN ISLAMABAD. IT IS ALSO PROBABLY DESIGNED TO DISARM THOSE WHO ARE PRESSING FOR A BOYCOTT OF THE MOSCOW OLYMPICS. ITS TIMING HAS ALSO NO DOUBT BEEN DETERMINED BY THE PLANNED MEETINGS IN VIENNA AT THE END OF THIS WEEK BETWEEN MR MUSKIE AND MR GROMYKO AND LORD CARRINGTON AND MR GROMYKO.

CARRINGTON

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SAD