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FM FCO 281300Z DECEMBER 79

TO IMMEDIATE KABUL

TELEGRAM NUMBER 211 OF 28 DECEMBER 79

AND TO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW

INFO WASHINGTON, DUBLIN, PARIS, ROME, BONN, UKDEL NATO, UKMIS NEW YORK, ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI, TEHRAN, PEKING, KUALA LUMPUR, SINGAPORE JAKARTA MANILA BANGKOK

MIPT: AFGHAN COUP D'ETAT

TEXT OF STATEMENT WAS AS FOLLOWS:

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONDEMN THE SOVIET UNION'S MILITARY INTERVENTION. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN HAVE A RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. (LINE FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES)

MUCH IS STILL UNCLEAR ABOUT YESTERDAY'S EVENTS IN KABUL BUT NOTHING CAN DISGUISE THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAVE CARRIED OUT AN OPEN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER INDEPENDENT COUNTRY WITHOUT ANY MANDATE TO DO SO FROM THE AFGHAN PEOPLE AS A WHOLE.

THE SOVIET UNION HAVE OFFERED NO CONVINCING EXPLANATION FOR THEIR ACTION OR FOR THE FACT THAT THEIR MILITARY DEPLOYMENT HAS COINCIDED WITH AN APPARENT COUP CARRIED OUT BY SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN ABSENT FROM AFGHANISTAN AND APPEARS TO HAVE RETURNED FROM EASTERN EUROPE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE ARRIVAL OF THE SOVIET TROOPS.

WE ARE STILL PIECING TOGETHER THE STORY. REPORTS FROM KABUL CONFIRM THAT THERE HAS BEEN FIGHTING IN THE CITY AND THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAVE CARRIED OUT A MAJOR MILITARY DEPLOYMENT THERE.

CARRINGTON

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