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TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NO 4377 OF 27 DECEMBER

INFO PRIORITY KABUL, ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI, PEKING, MOSCOW, MODUK,
UKMIS NEW YORK.

MY TELNO 4364: AFGHANISTAN

1. WHEN I SAW VANCE THIS EVENING ABOUT IRAN, HE HAD JUST EMERGED FROM CHAIRING A MEETING ON AFGHANISTAN. IT WAS CLEAR TO THE AMERICANS THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD TAKEN A FIRM DECISION TO PUT IN THEIR OWN STOOGES, PROBABLY AS A RESULT OF THE REPORT MADE TO THEM BY THE SOVIET GENERAL WHO WAS IN KABUL IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER. I SUGGESTED THAT AT LEAST THIS WAS CLEAR-CUT AND IN SOME WAYS MADE THE AMERICAN POSITION EASIER. HE AGREED.

2. VANCE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD AT AN EARLIER STAGE RAISED THE RECENT RUSSIAN BUILD-UP WITH THE CHINESE EMBASSY WHO HAD VIEWED IT WITH GREAT SERIOUSNESS BUT CONFINED THEMSELVES TO ASKING WHAT THE AMERICANS PLANNED TO DO ABOUT IT.

3. MORE INTERESTINGLY, VANCE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE RECOMMENDING TO THE PRESIDENT THAT, WITH REGARD TO PAKISTAN, THE US SHOULD ACCEPT THE FACTS OF NUCLEAR LIFE AND BE CONTENT WITH WHAT THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO EXTRACT SO FAR FROM THE PAKISTANIS - I.E. THAT PAKISTAN DID NOT YET HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO MAKE A BOMB, THAT SHE WOULD NOT TRANSFER NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND THAT SHE WOULD NOT EXPLODE A NUCLEAR DEVICE WHILE ZIA WAS IN POWER - AND INDICATE A WILLINGNESS TO SELL THEM MILITARY HARDWARE. AS REGARDS INDIA, VANCE WILL RECOMMEND THAT THE NEXT TRANCHE OF FUEL FOR TARAPUR SHOULD BE APPROVED WHICH WOULD IN SOME WAY RESTORE THE STATUS QUO. AFTER THE INDIAN ELECTION, THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TOLD THAT THE US WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SUPPLY OF CERTAIN TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING HOWITZERS THEY WANTED FOR THEIR MOUNTAIN TROOPS.

HENDERSON

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