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[TEXT]

Following is a transcript of Prime Minister's Press Conference held at 081400Z.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Prime Minister will say a few words and then she will take questions. Prime Minister:

Mr President Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to start by thanking President Zia and the Government of Pakistan for their very warm hospitality in organising a facinating programme for my all too brief stay in Pakistan today and I am very glad to be back here for my second visit to Pakistan, I am glad to renew my acquaintance with the President and to continue to demonstrate the British Government's support to Pakistan in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

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and Pakistan have had close and friendly relations for many years and Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has added a new dimension to the relationship. Lord Carrington has visited Pakistan twice for consultations with Mr *Agha Shahn* and my visit is part of that continuing relationship in addition I have the pleasure of welcoming President Zia to Britain a year ago and the Foreign Minister Mr *Agha Shahn* has visited us on several occasions. Now today I have seen for myself the *plight* of great people of Afghanistan who have been driven from their homes to seek refuge in Pakistan. Their manfolk and their women and children made a great impression on me. We British new their courage and determination from long ago and the Russians are now discovering it to their cost. I have assured the refugees that we in Britain would work to help them return to their own villages to live in peace and freedom and also I am very impressed with the efforts and generosity of the Pakistan Government in looking after over 2 million refugees in this now the largest refugee problem in the world. The work they have done together with the representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees is much admired by all the free countries in the world. Again I promised such help as we could give and I announced the provision of an additional 2 million grant on top of the *£5.8* million pounds we have already given from the British Government. At my meeting with the President this morning we discussed these problems and a wide range of subjects which we and Pakistan have an interest. I told the President a little bit of one or two things that have happened in *Melbourne* ~~London?~~ this past week. We discussed the situation in this area and our shared interest in its stability and prosperity. I stressed the importance we attach to the security and stability to the Gulf region and of course the progress towards the solution of

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

the main conflict in the middle eastern area, particularly in the light of the tragic event in Cairo. I was very struck by the main issue

views . Pakistan is an Islamic Republic a developing country and a member of the Non-Aligned Movement. We respect that independence and we value it. It contributed a great deal to our discussions today. Once again I am very happy to be here, delighted with the warm welcome, and thank you for your generous hospitality Now Ladies and Gentlemen, may I answer your questions. It would help if you said who you were and the paper which you represent and may we ask first the questions from our host country

Q Pakistan Times?

Prime Minister indistinct

A. We have not discussed any further initiative. ^{well} You ~~we~~ are as your question indicates /aware of the initiative by the European community and you will remember that the Lord Carrington went to Moscow to discuss with the Moscow Government. You are quite right we have so far got nowhere it would be the right way to proceed. I know of no further developments at the moment that I can report to you . Next question:

Q. Indistinct

A. I confess I find it very hard to understand your question. Very difficult to understand your question. I see no sign whatsoever of exploitation of the refugees We were all extremely grateful to Pakistan , very grateful indeed that everything that's been done for them tremendous courage, naturally they want their country back but, the words expressed to me were of gratitude to the Government of Pakistan and that everything that has been done to them and for the kindness of the peoples in the area were the refugee camps are situated.

This question was an oblique reference to Mrs Gandhi's "Le Figaro" interview in which she said Pakistan was exploiting the Afghan situation for its own ends.

Q. Indistinct

A. We have already been part of 2 communiques one from the ~~through~~ the Ottawa Conference, ~~which~~ which said that we should go ahead with preparations with global negotiations and we hope that those negotiations would be constructive and be likely to be successful. There was a similar communique from the European Heads of Government. I think there is a certain amount of difference between what people understand by the term global negotiations we certainly have indicated that we believe that they will go ahead. There is no doubt about that. When we go to CANCUN in Mexico some 24 nations go representing themselves not representing anyone else and I think we are all very conscious that we are only 24 out of a very much larger number so please don't expect suddenly pronouncements from CANCUN I think our job will be to see how to take the process of growing help from the developed to the developing world. How best to take that process forward

~~xxxx~~

Q. London Times? Trevor Fisher^{lock}. The Afghan^{to} refugees you met today Prime Minister asked you for arms and put it colloquially they seem to be suggesting that in this respect the British Government should put its money where its mouth is. How do you think the British Government will respond to this?

A. Well I believe that the Afghan refugees those who ^(as freedom fighters) are fighting^{*} within Afghanistan already have a supply of arms and we do not usually discuss these matters to put it colloquially.

Q. PAK TV. What sort of role is Britain going to play over Afghanistan at the current session of the UNGA?

A. I am sure we will play a constructive role if your question is related to Afghanistan. ^{Then} ~~xxxx~~ of course we shall continue to use our influence to see that the Soviet Union continues to be condemned so long as she

* Prime Minister
Said "Pakistan"

occupies Afghanistan. Afghanistan was a Non-aligned country. We believe that every country has the right to decide her own destiny and it is the people of that country who decide it and they should decide it and they should decide it without the troops of occupation.

Q. PAK TV Excellency, in your opinion what is the best solution to the problem of Afghanistan.

A. If we ~~xxx~~ could pour a whole series of solutions out of our heads it would be marvelous. There is only one solution ~~xxx~~ and that's the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The question is how best to achieve that. So far there have been initiatives on the part of both Islamic peoples and the European Economic Community I am afraid we have not yet discovered a way to bring it about. We must continue to search for a way because the occupation of Afghanistan continues to be unacceptable to the world as a whole as well as to the people of Afghanistan.

Q. Morning News. There's a great deal of terrorism in the world today. Is there any appreciation in Britain and the rest of the world of the way that Pakistan handled the recent Hijacking of an aircraft to Pakistan.

A. Very great appreciation it was handled superbly and I congratulate the Government of Pakistan on the way it was handled. And I believe that it is fully appreciated.

Q. Could you tell us what happened in Melbourne about Pakistan's possible re-entry to the ~~Commonwealth~~ Commonwealth

A. That was not discussed in open session at Melbourne. There was an informal discussion between a certain number of members at the Conference - those discussions have not yet been ~~in~~ concluded.

Q. Amit Roy - D. Telegraph. We heard in your opening remarks about the tragic events in Cairo. How do you think that affects the security situation in the Gulf and here.

A. I will give you the reply that I gave yesterday to a similar question. I think there will be strenuous efforts on the ~~xxx~~ part of both Egypt and Israel and all other nations to try to see that there is a stable situation and to try to continue with the return of Sinai to Egypt. When you get something like this happening naturally a number of people feel uncertain but I think we have become very conscious, because of events in the last 2 or 3 years, of ~~xxx~~ the importance of trying to create stability out of a situation of potential uncertainty. Can I just give you one example of what I mean. When the Iran Iraq conflict broke out there was a danger that it would spread very widely, that would have been very damaging to almost the whole world. There was tremendous activity immediately after ~~that~~ the start of the conflict. That ~~xxx~~ activity was successful. I believe that there will be strenuous efforts made to see that the process that ~~President~~ President Sadat began which would have concluded with the return of Sinai in April 1982 will continue and that both the caretaker and whatever government is ultimately put in office in Egypt as well as Israel will do everything to see that things are as stable as possible.

Q. Dawn

I presume that bilateral matters came up Prime Minister. What would be the position of Pakistanis settled in Britain in relations to the Nationality Bill.

A. If they are full citizens of Britain and have been accepted for permanent citizenship they will be treated just exactly the same as any other person who is a full citizen of Britain. Exactly the same as I would be. If they are full citizens of Britain already.

Q. Arab Times.

Madam you have acknowledged that the Palestine problem is the core of the Middle East conflict. Does Britain support the creation of a Palestinian state so that this problem can be resolved.

A. Britain's views are governed by the ~~Exxx~~ Venice declaration of last year to which we were a party which set out 2 fundamental principles which must be satisfied one that Israel has the right to live within secure boundaries. The other that the Palestinians have their legitimate rights to self-determination and that each must recognise ~~that~~ the rights of the other. After all you cant demand for yourself something which you are going to deny to another people. We will try to get those things accepted by each side. Get the Israelis to accept the Palestinians right to self-determination. To get the Palestinians to accept the Israelis right to exist behind secure borders. I'm afraid we've not yet been successful in securing both of those things the difficulty is to get them happening simultaneously. I think that if I might say so that Crown Prince Fahd's 8 principles were very welcome indeed and of course one of them, I believe it was the 7th, did ~~the~~ recognise the right of all states in the area to exist within secure borders. And that I think was very good indeed.

Q. At the Melbourne Conference you must have discussed the situation in this area. Did you see any appreciation of Pakistan's efforts to normalise relations with India

A. I am sure that Pakistan wishes to have friendly relations with India. I'm not in any doubt about that at all nor am I in any doubt that that would be in everyones interests.

Q. How do you view the security problem of Pakistan after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

A. I say what I have said very many times. Every country of the world has a right to defend herself and to defend her people and must have the tools and weapons ^{with} which to do that. Pakistan is no exception and now she is right in the front line since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. I believe that Pakistan has a number of sources for the supply of weapons the United States is one. We in the past have supplied Pakistan with weapons and of course if asked to do so would obviously look at any request Pakistan

wishes to make.

Q. Hassan Akhtar, Dawn. In relation to the last question there has been some concern expressed about the ~~xxx~~ delay in the supply of weapons. The deliver schedule looks as if weapons might arrive too late to help Pakistan.

A. I am not aware that there has been any specific request that has not

Q. Interrupting..... I am not referring in relation to your country but I am speaking of the Western offer of assistance to Pakistan. I refer to the US 3.5 billion offer and perhaps to other assistance which is required. The time lag is such that it seems that by the time the aid arrived it will be too late.

A. There is always the question ~~xxx~~ with sophisticated arms and weapons - they cannot be produced quickly you are quite right, but I understand that the United States has given a very sympathetic hearing to Pakistan's needs and I don't think I can go further than that.

Q. PAK Times. In relation to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has this altered your Government's defence policy in relation to the south asian region.

A. My own Government is not unaware of the potential threat from the Soviet Union and the Head of my own Government was particularly aware of it so I don't think we needed to make a fresh assessment insofar as we suddenly had an extra conflict added which I might say was of an unexpected kind Iran and Iraq. In all the forecasts I think I have ever seen I do not recall having seen one in which there would be a conflict between Iran and Iraq without being part of a wider conflict. Now it happened and as I indicated in the reply to an earlier question strenuous efforts were made by the whole world community to contain that that particularly group of hostilities. Those were successful and shortly afterwards the United States moves some fleet into the straits of *Hormuz*.

We also have some ships there and France. Now you could call that, in your appreciation of the situation, and you could also say that we perhaps have a more lively appreciation now, that one may have to act to contain hostilities in a number of parts of the world. And you will know that the question of a rapid deployment force had in fact come up long before that. But of course it would be a force, if the United States decided to go ahead with it, that could be move around the world, at the request of the host governments. So yes, in a way, I think there has been a great deal of appreciation that there can be hostilities breaking out well away from the NATO line and don't forget the NATO line has held peace in Europe for what 36 years is it now. There are a number of danger points round the world which could spread and of course all our efforts are bent on containing those. Not only for the immediate area, because its vital to them, but the rest of the world as well. That's a very extended answer, but I think you've got the general gist of it.

Q: Prime Minister you have mentioned in your opening statement
.....

A. Well it is part of a continuing series of visits by Ministers, one to another. We do try to do what we can to help with the refugee problem, for instance Zia has raised a number of bilateral problems with me. I will of course look into those. But you know the relationship is good. The relationship has been good, is good and will continue to be good, and that's the way we want it to be.

Q: inaudible

A: But one is always, always, always searching for a political solution. The solution to the Afghanistan problem is in fact for the Russian troops to withdraw from Afghanistan. You will say that's a military solution, in a way it is because they ought not to be there. One tries to bend all diplomatic efforts to secure that withdrawal. It is not easy. As you can have seen from the number of initiatives that have been taken that have not so far been fruitful. But that is the solution. In the meantime every country has to defend itself from potential aggressors. We do that. Almost every country in the world does it. And of course

expects Pakistan to do exactly the same thing. Indeed she already does it to a very considerable extent. But the fact that you depend to deter an aggressor does not preclude you from constantly searching for political solutions. And don't forget a large part of your defence efforts is what I call "peace-mongering". It is to deter a war. It's not war-mongering, its peace-mongering. You are much more likely to keep the peace when you can clearly be seen to be defending your own people.

Q: Madam, Prime Minister. Can you give me some examples, some solid details about bilateral matters . . .

A: Well they are comparatively small detailed matters. We had a discussion about greater world matters too.

Q: inaudible

A: Well we don't usually give detailed examples.

Q: inaudible

A: I'm afraid that's not mine. I was just having a look at it. It belongs to the person who gave it to me to have a look at. No I'm not going home with it. I think it might cause some problems.

B. R.
PRIME MINISTER

YOUR PRESS CONFERENCE - ARRANGEMENTS

The Press Conference is scheduled to take place at the CMLA Secretariat Auditorium beginning at 7 p.m. and lasting for forty minutes.

We understand you will be escorted either by the President or the Minister of State (Dr. Attiya Inayatulla). If the President accompanies you we expect he will remain for the Press Conference seated in the front row of the Auditorium.

The Auditorium, which is quite modern, will seat about 100. We expect it to be full. All the major international news agencies are represented here and will be present. Pravda and Tass also have bureaux here and could be present. Pakistan TV and radio will be covering it as will BBC radio. (BBC TV and ITN are unable to attend because they will be in the process of preparing to satellite to London.)

You will be seated at a table on the stage along with the Ambassador and Bernard. Bernard will introduce you and if you wish will select the questions. All the questions will be put to you in English. Questions from Pakistani journalists are likely to be diffuse and much less sharp than you might expect from Western journalists.

Apart from your talks with the President and your visit to the Border, you may well be questioned about some of the following:-

- Pakistan's readmission to the Commonwealth
- Indo/Pakistan Relations
- Pakistan's right to self defence and acquisition of arms
- British aid
- Your remarks in Kuwait about the PLO
- Possible British involvement in a Regional Defence Force
- The possibility that the troops who recently successfully dealt with an aircraft hi-jack were trained by the SAS

I attach draft opening remarks prepared by the Embassy.

8 October 1981

T. O'Keefe

Embargo: to be checked
against delivery



OPENING REMARKS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE
AT 1900 HOURS ON THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER

I should like to start by thanking President Zia and the Government of Pakistan for their warm hospitality. I have had a full and fascinating programme for my all too brief visit to Pakistan today.

I am glad to be back here for my second visit to Pakistan. I am glad to renew my own acquaintance with the President and to continue to demonstrate the British Government's continuing support for Pakistan in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. We have had close and friendly relations for many years. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has added a new dimension to that relationship. Lord Carrington has visited Pakistan twice for consultations with Mr Agha Shahi, and my visit is part of that continuing relationship. In addition, I had the pleasure of welcoming President Zia to Britain a year ago and the Foreign Minister Mr Agha Shahi has visited us on several occasions.

Now I have seen for myself the proud and brave people of Afghanistan who have been driven from their homes to seek refuge in Pakistan. Their menfolk, and their women and children, made a great impression on me. We British know their courage and determination from long ago. The Russians are now discovering it to their cost. I assured the refugees that we in Britain would work to help them return to their own villages to live in peace and freedom.

/I was also

I was also very impressed with the efforts of the Pakistan Government to look after over two million refugees in this, the largest refugee problem in the world. The work they have done together with the representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is much admired by all the free countries of the world. Again, I promised such help as we could give. And I announced the provision of an additional £2 million grant from the British Government.

At my meeting with the President this morning we discussed these problems and a wide range of subjects in which both we and the Pakistan Government have an interest. I told the President about our deliberations in Melbourne this past week. We discussed the situation in this region, and our shared interest in its stability and prosperity. I presented our views on the global threat from the Soviet Union; I stressed the importance we attach to the security and stability of the Gulf region; and I underlined the need for progress towards a solution of the Arab/Israel conflict, particularly in the light of the tragic events in Cairo.

I was very struck by the many issues on which our views are very close, although we sometimes have different perspectives. Pakistan is an Islamic Republic, a developing country and a member of the Non Aligned Movement. We respect that independence and value it. It contributed much to our discussions today.

I should now be happy to answer your questions.

OO NEW DELHI
RR WELLINGTON
RR OTTAWA
RR DACCA

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INFO IMMEDIATE FCO, NEW DELHI, ROUTINE WELLINGTON, OTTAWA,
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AND SAVING TO COLOMBO, CANBERRA.

SIR J. GILGATY
MR GOODSON

FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER.

Chief, SAD
Chief, NEWS
Chief, OC

PAKISTAN AND THE COMMONWEALTH

FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS FROM PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN YESTERDAY
AFTERNOON BY MR FRASER AND MR RAMPHAL FOLLOWING END OF CHGM:

ps/mr [unclear]
Down 16.57

(MR FRASER): THERE WAS VERY INFORMAL DISCUSSION AMONG SOME
LEADERS ON THE GENERAL QUESTION OF RE-ADMISSION TO THE
COMMONWEALTH. THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS
WILL BE KEEPING IN TOUCH ON THAT PARTICULAR MATTER.

QUESTION: MR FRASER, YOU MENTIONED THAT THERE HAD BEEN
DISCUSSION BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ON RE-ADMISSION INTO THE
COMMONWEALTH, AND THAT THIS MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED FURTHER
BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. WAS THIS SIMPLY DISCUSSION ABOUT
PROCEDURES TO BE ADOPTED OR WAS THE POSSIBLE RE-ADMISSION OF
PAKISTAN RAISED WITH MRS GANDHI? COULD YOU ELABORATE, PLEASE?

MR FRASER: I CAN ELABORATE A LITTLE BIT BUT NOT VERY MUCH.
IT WAS NOT JUST A QUESTION OF PROCEDURES, THERE WAS ALSO A QUESTION
OF SUBSTANCE, BUT NO DECISIONS WERE MADE. THE DECISION IS AS
STATED: TO KEEP IN TOUCH ON THE MATTER.

QUESTION: YES, BUT WAS THE QUESTION OF PAKISTAN'S POSSIBLE
RE-ADMISSION RAISED WITH MRS GANDHI?

MR FRASER: YES, THE QUESTION OF SUBSTANCE WAS RAISED, BUT IT WAS
NOT A QUESTION OF YESES OR NOES BEING ASKED OR GIVEN. THERE WAS
NOT A QUESTION OF THAT; IT WAS A QUESTION OF DISCUSSION; IT WAS
A QUESTION OF MAKING UP OUR MINDS TO KEEP IN TOUCH ON THE
PARTICULAR MATTER.

QUESTION: COULD YOU TELL US WHICH COUNTRIES RAISED THIS QUESTION
WITH MRS GANDHI?

MR FRASER: WELL, IT WAS ALL DONE IN PRIVATE SESSION, NOT IN
OPEN SESSION, I THINK MOSTLY BILATERALLY, AND I THINK IT WOULD
BE INAPPROPRIATE TO MENTION WHICH COUNTRIES WERE IN FACT - - -
I WOULD NOT KNOW THE LIST ANYWAY. I KNOW SOME BUT I HAVE
GOT NO DOUBT THERE WERE OTHERS.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING COLOMBO, CANBERRA.

ANGLIN

NNN

SENT AT 080034Z

IMMEDIATE