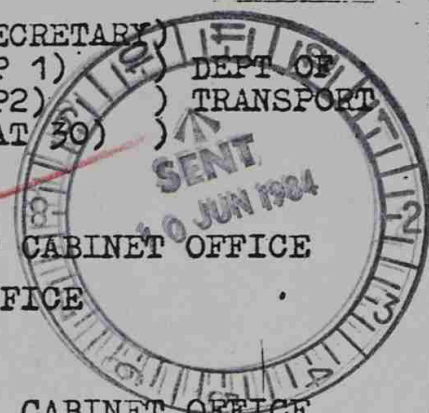


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FM NEW DELHI 100700Z JUN 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO LONDON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 486 OF 10 JUNE 1984

INFO PRIORITY ISLAMABAD

INFO SAVING BOMBAY, CALCUTTA AND MADRAS (ALL ACTIONED)

INDIA INTERNAL : PUNJAB

1. FOR RESIDENT CLERK : IN VIEW OF THE SIKH DEMONSTRATION IN LONDON PLANNED FOR LATER TODAY SAD MAY FIND IT USEFUL TO HAVE A ROUNDUP OF LATEST EVENTS IN PUNJAB.

SUMMARY

2. SIKH TERRORIST ACTIVITY IS CONTINUING IN PUNJAB. THE BBC WORLD SERVICE STORY OF A MUTINY AMONGST SIKH TROOPS IN RAJASTHAN IS NOT BEING CARRIED IN THE INDIAN PRESS. FIRST DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF THE GOLDEN TEMPLE OPERATION SUGGEST EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE AKAI TAKHT RELIGIOUS BUILDING. THERE IS WIDESPREAD PRESS COVERAGE OF SIKH REACTIONS IN THE UK.

DETAIL

3. SIKH TERRORIST ACTIVITY CONTINUES IN PUNJAB WITH NINE PEOPLE REPORTED KILLED YESTERDAY. IN AMRITSAR TERRORISTS STILL HOLDING OUT IN BUILDINGS AROUND THE GOLDEN TEMPLE COMPLEX SHOT TWO SOLDIERS YESTERDAY.

4. CURFEWS, THOUGH LIFTED TEMPORARILY FROM TIME TO TIME, REMAIN IN FORCE THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND IN CHANDIGARH, INDICATING THE GOVERNMENT'S GREAT CONCERN TO CONTAIN IMMEDIATE SIKH REACTIONS IN THE STATE.

IN THE STATE.

5. THE BBC WORLD SERVICE HAVE CARRIED A STORY THAT SIKH TROOPS BASED IN RAJASTHAN CLOSE TO THE PUNJAB BORDER HAVE MUTINIED. THIS IS NOT CARRIED BY THE INDIAN PRESS ALTHOUGH ONE PAPER CARRIES THE OFFICIAL DENIAL OF THE STORY (ALSO MENTIONED BY THE BBC) AND THE VERSION THAT TERRORISTS ARE MASQUERADING AS ARMY PERSONNEL IN THE AREA.

6. FIRST DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF THE GOLDEN TEMPLE OPERATION ARE BEGINNING TO APPEAR IN THE INDIAN PRESS. FROM THESE IT SEEMS THAT THE AKAI TAKHT, THE SECOND MOST RELIGIOUS BUILDING IN THE GOLDEN TEMPLE, HAS BEEN QUITE BADLY DAMAGED. REPAIR WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED. NO FIRM OFFICIAL CASUALTY FIGURES HAVE YET BEEN ISSUED. THE ARMY COMMANDER IN CHARGE OF THE GOLDEN TEMPLE OPERATION HAS STATED ON INDIAN TELEVISION THAT TWO PERSONS IDENTIFIED BY THE INDIAN AUTHORITIES AS PAKISTANIS DRESSED AS SIKHS WERE KILLED WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM THE GOLDEN TEMPLE. HE ALSO INTERPRETED THE PAKASTINI AND CHINESE MARKINGS REPUTEDLY FOUND ON SOME OF THE LARGE QUANTITIES OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION CAPTURED IN THE TEMPLE AS EVIDENCE OF FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR THE EXTREMISTS.

7. SIKH REACTIONS IN THE UK CONTINUE TO GET COVERAGE HERE. MEETINGS BETWEEN THE POLICE AND JAGJIT SINGH CHARHAN AND OTHER SIKH AUTHORITIES ARE WIDELY REPORTED UNDER THE OPENING LINES THAT "THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO THE SIKH COMMUNITY IN BRITAIN THAT THEY WOULD TAKE A SERIOUS VIEW OF ANY ACTS OF VIOLENCE ON THEIR PART".

SAMUEL

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