

CONFIDENTIAL

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OO NEW DELHI

GRS 480

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FM FCO 131215Z JUN 84

TO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI

TELEGRAM NUMBER 443 OF 13 JUNE

SIKH AGITATION: GUARDIAN STORY ON FCO GUIDANCE

1. THE GUARDIAN OF 13 JUNE CARRIES A STORY THAT COPIES OF A TELEX 'ORGINATING FROM THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN NEW DELHI' WERE DELIVERED BY POLICE COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS TO SIKH TEMPLES 'THROUGHOUT BRITAIN'. SIKH LEADERS HAVE EXPRESSED OUTRAGE, ACCORDING TO THE GUARDIAN, AT WHAT THEY CALL BRITISH GOVERNMENT DISINFORMATION (AS FAR AS WE KNOW GUARDIAN HAS ONLY CONTACTED ONE SIKH TEMPLE). COPY OF POLICE TELEX IS IN OUR IFT.

2. THE BACKGROUND IS AS FOLLOWS. ON 8 JUNE WE RECEIVED A REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE FROM THE POLICE COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER (CLO) IN SOUTHALL, WHERE THE ATMOSPHERE WAS VERY TENSE AND ONE PETROL BOMB ATTACK ON A HINDU TEMPLE HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE. THE CLO WAS ABOUT TO MEET SIKH LEADERS TO APPEAL FOR CALM. SAD SUGGESTED THAT THE CLO MIGHT DRAW ON INDIAN PRESS REPORTS FOR HELPFUL POINTS EG THAT THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES CLAIMED TO HAVE TAKEN MANY MORE CASUALTIES THAN THEY NEEDED BY ABJURING THE USE OF HEAVY WEAPONS, SO AS TO ENSURE MINIMUM DAMAGE TO SIKH HOLY SHRINES.

3. WHEN YOUR TELNO 485 ARRIVED ON 9 JUNE, SAD DUTY OFFICER DECIDED, IN VIEW OF CONTINUING VERY TENSE ATMOSPHERE, AND WILD RUMOURS ON REAL SITUATION IN PUNJAB APPARENTLY CURRENT AMONG SIKH COMMUNITY, THAT POLICE CLOS MIGHT WELCOME DETAILS OF THIS LATEST INFORMATION FROM GOI AND INDIAN PRESS. RESIDENT CLERK TELEPHONED GIST OF HELPFUL POINTS IN YOUR TELEGRAM THROUGH TO POLICE DUTY OFFICER. POLICE DUTY OFFICER, WHO SHOULD HAVE CONSULTED HIS SUPERIOR ABOUT THE USE, IF ANY, TO BE MADE OF THE REPORT, CHOSE INSTEAD TO CIRCULATE A TELEX TO ALL POLICE DISTRICTS CITING 'FCO INSTRUCTIONS'. POLICE IN ESSEX SEEM TO HAVE GIVEN A COPY TO SIKHS THERE.

4. THIS IS CLEARLY AN UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT. NEWS DEPARTMENT

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ARE TAKING THE LINE THAT THE REPORT REFERRED TO WAS SIMPLY ONE MESSAGE FORMING PART OF OUR REGULAR EFFORTS TO KEEP THE HOME OFFICE AND POLICE INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. THE REPORT WAS BASED ON QUOTATIONS FROM GOI STATEMENTS AND PRESS REPORTS AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN EXPRESSION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS. THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF THE FCC INSTRUCTING THE POLICE WHAT TO DO (IT IS FOR THE POLICE TO USE THE INFORMATION PASSED TO THEM AS THEY THINK FIT).

5. SUBJECT TO YOUR VIEWS, YOU MIGHT WISH TO SAY UNATTRIBUTABLY, WITH TRUSTED CONTACTS, THAT THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF THE FCC SEEKING TO INFLUENCE THE PERCEPTION OF INDIANS IN THIS COUNTRY ON EVENTS IN THE PUNJAB.

6. OUR LINE ON THE WIDER PROBLEMS IN THE PUNJAB CONTINUES TO BE THAT WE ARE FOLLOWING EVENTS IN THE PUNJAB WITH GREAT CONCERN, AND NATURALLY REGRET THE LOSS OF LIFE THERE. WE HOPE THAT CALM WILL SOON RETURN TO THE PUNJAB. YOU MAY ADD THAT WE BELIEVE THAT THE UNITY AND INTEGRITY OF INDIA ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE STABILITY AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE REGION (CLEGHORN'S LETTER TO WILLIAMS OF 27 MARCH).

HOWE

INDIA - TERRORISM

LIMITED

SAD

MAED

SEC D

PUSD

PROTOCOL D

NEWS D

CONS D

CCD

MVD

NAD

COD

DEF D

ECD(E)

SECURITY CO-ORD UNIT

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PS

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PS/MR WHITNEY

PS/PUS

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OO NEW DELHI

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FM FCO 131110Z JUN 84

TO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI

TELEGRAM NUMBER 444 OF 13 JUNE

OUR IPT: GUARDIAN STORY ON FCO GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF POLICE MESSAGE:

TO : ALL DISTRICT COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS AND A(7)1

FROM: COMMANDER (OPERATIONS) SPECIAL BRANCH

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL DISTRICT COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE CAN BE DISSEMINATED AMONG THE SIKH COMMUNITY BY THE MORNING OF 10 JUNE 1984.

THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE REQUEST THAT ALL COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS SHOULD, AT THEIR DISCRETION, COMMUNICATE THE FOLLOWING SALIENT POINTS OF A TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN NEW DELHI TO LEADERS OF THE SIKH COMMUNITY IN THEIR AREAS.

1 THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN NEW DELHI HAS REPORTED THAT THE PUNJAB WAS COMPARATIVELY QUIET YESTERDAY. ONLY SIX PEOPLE HAVE BEEN REPORTED KILLED IN SECURITY FORCE OPERATIONS.

2 THE CURFEW IS BEING RELAXED TEMPORARILY ON A DISTRICT AND TOWN BASIS. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT IS TAKING STEPS TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE AMONG THE SIKH COMMUNITY.

3 THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA HAS VISITED THE GOLDEN TEMPLE AND THE PRESS HAVE SHOWN PHOTOGRAPHS OF HIM LEAVING THE TEMPLE - THE HARMANDER SAHIB - RELATIVELY UNDAMAGED.

4 MRS INDIRA GANDHI HAS EXPRESSED SORROW AT EVENTS BUT SAID THAT MILITARY ACTION WAS UNAVOIDABLE. IT WAS NOW NECESSARY TO HEAL THE WOUNDS INFLICTED ON THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE.

5 ACCORDING TO THE HOME MINISTER'S CASUALTY FIGURES

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THE DEATH TOLL IS CERTAINLY TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY BUT  
LESS THAN FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY. FIGURES ARE STILL  
BEING COMPILED.

6 THE GURBANI - THE TWENTY FOUR HOUR READING OF  
THE HOLY BOOK HAS CONTINUED UNINTERRUPTED.  
THIS MESSAGE IS SENT IN CONFIDENCE AND IS NOT SUITABLE  
FOR THE PRESS.  
MESSAGE ENDS.

HOWE

INDIA - TERRORISM

LIMITED

SAD

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