

BF today

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GRS 420
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D E S K B Y 081400Z
FM NEW DELHI 081230Z JAN 85
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 033 OF 8 JANUARY
AND TO IMMEDIATE MOD, DTI, AND ODA

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RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

YOUR TELNO 14: CHAUHAN AND INDO-BRITISH RELATIONS

1. I SAW ALEXANDER THIS AFTERNOON. AFTER REHEARSING THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE TOOK THE CHAUHAN PROBLEM AND WHY, I RAN OVER BOTH THE POSITIVE ACTIONS WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO TAKE (EG MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS, JASBIR SINGH

AND THE LEGAL OBSTACLES WHICH LAY IN THE WAY OF PROSECUTION (ON PRESENT EVIDENCE), DEPORTATION ETC. I HAD FULL DOCUMENTATION ON THE LATTER POINTS IF HE WOULD LIKE IT. ALEXANDER SAID THE GOI WERE PREPARING A DOSSIER SETTING OUT THE ADVICE ON THE LEGAL SITUATION WHICH THEY HAD BEEN RECEIVING. THEY HOPED TO GIVE US THIS SHORTLY. MY DOCUMENTATION WOULD BE A WELCOME INPUT. I THEREFORE GAVE HIM (ALL ON PLAIN PAPER) A NOTE ON DEPORTATION WITH TEXTS OF THE RELEVANT BITS OF THE IMMIGRATION ACT 1971: A NOTE ON THE BLOOD PRICE STORY, WITH TEXTS OF THE KNO LETTER AND OF THE JANG EXTRACT: THE TRANSCRIPTS OF WHAT CHAUHAN HAS SAID ON RADIO OR TV: AND A GUIDANCE NOTE IN Q AND A FORM COVERING THE COMMONEST ACCUSATIONS AGAINST US. (COPIES OF ALL THESE, EXCEPT THE TRANSCRIPTS WHICH YOU ALREADY HAVE, WERE SENT BY HEAD OF CHANCERY TO CLEGHORN SAD IN TODAY'S BAG: I DID NOT OF COURSE GIVE HIM THE INTERNAL COVER NOTE TO THE Q AND A MATERIAL.)

2. I THEN SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED IN YOUR PARA 2. ALEXANDER REPLIED THAT DELAYS OVER MINISTERIAL VISITS WERE NATURAL GIVEN THE NEW GOVERNMENT HERE AND THE GENERAL SHAKE-UP WHICH THE NEW PRIME MINISTER WAS INSISTING ON. HE THOUGHT IT QUITE POSSIBLE THAT COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS WOULD GET TEMPORARILY DELAYED ON THE SAME GROUNDS. SO FAR AS HE WAS AWARE, HOWEVER, SUCH COMMERCIAL DELAYS WERE NOT CHAUHAN-RELATED NOR MEANT AS POLITICAL PRESSURE. HE ASKED WHICH FIRMS AND WHICH INDIAN INDUSTRIES WERE INVOLVED. WHEN I SAID WESTLANDS, BRITISH AEROSPACE AND ROLLS ROYCE, ALL OF WHOM WERE DEALING PRIMARILY WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO CHECK THE POSITION WITH THE DEFENCE SECRETARY AND THEN GET BACK TO ME. THIS MIGHT TAKE THREE OR FOUR DAYS, GIVEN THE OTHER PREOCCUPATIONS OF BOTH OF THEM. I URGED GREATER SPEED, GIVEN THE DANGERS OF THE RUMOURS HITTING THE HEADLINES AND THEREAFTER BEING HARDER TO DEAL WITH. HE PROMISED TO TRY TO GET BACK TO ME WITHIN TWO DAYS.

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3. I THEN SPOKE ON THE LINES OF YOUR PARA 3. ALEXANDER SAID HE TOOK THE POINT AND REPEATED THAT HE WOULD GET BACK TO ME QUICKLY WHEN HE HAD CONSULTED DEFENCE.

4. ALEXANDER DID NOT RAISE THE SOBLEN POINT IN YOUR TELNO 24. BUT I WAS ABLE TO SPEAK ON THE LINES OF PARAS 2 AND 3 OF THAT TELEGRAM, IN COMMENTING ON (AND WELCOMING) HIS PROMISE OF A LEGAL DOSSIER. HE SHOWED NO DISPOSITION TO TREAT THE JASBIR SINGH CASE AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN EVIDENCE OF OUR GOODWILL.

WADE-GERY

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