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FM NEW DELHI 191120Z APR 85  
 TO IMMEDIATE DTI  
 TELNO OTTER 114 OF 19 APRIL 1985  
 INFO IMMEDIATE FCC AND ODA

*A strange meeting.*

FOR NEVILLE ROLFE PEP

MY TELNO OTTER 103 : WESTLANDS

1. FIRST MEETING OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM WESTLANDS AND INDIAN AIR FORCE WAS CALLED AT SHORT NOTICE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. JONES ATTENDED WITH WESTLAND AND THE INDIAN SIDE FIELDER DAULAT SINGH, JOINT SECRETARY, MEA AND CAPT BASSIEN DEPUTY MD OF INDIAN AIRLINES IN ADDITION TO 3 AIR FORCE OFFICERS.
2. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED IN A FRIENDLY WAY BY THE AIR FORCE AND THE INDIAN LEADER, AIR MARSHAL GREENE, SAID THAT HE WISHED TO CLEAR UP SOME TECHNICAL POINTS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY JONES, DAULAT SINGH SAID IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO HAVE AN AGREED RECORD OF THE MEETING, EACH SIDE SHOULD TAKE ITS OWN NOTES.
3. Q GREENE SAID THAT THE FIRST POINT COVERED THE SAFETY RISK ON TAKE OFF FROM A RIG. HE DESCRIBED THE 4 SECOND RISK PERIOD AS UNACCEPTABLE. WHAT HE WANTED WAS ZERO RISK. WESTLANDS DID NOT CONTEST THIS POINT BUT SAID THAT THE HELICOPTER WAS CERTIFIED TO CAA CATEGORY A RULES AND THE RISK PERIOD WAS ACCEPTABLE. GREENE MAINTAINED THAT, ON THIS POINT, THE W30 DID NOT MEET THE INDIAN ASR. WESTLAND COUNTERED THAT THEY HAD NEVER SAID THEY CAN MEET THE ASR ON THIS FACTOR AND HAD NOT GUARANTEED TO DO SO. THEY WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT THE DAUPHIN HAS A LONGER SAFETY RISK PERIOD THAN THE W30 UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS. THEY ALSO SAID THAT THEY COULD PROVIDE ZERO RISK UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS IE LIGHT WIND OR LOWER TEMPERATURES. DISCUSSION OF THIS HIGHLY TECHNICAL POINT CONTINUED FOR SOME TIME WITH NO CONCLUSION BEING REACHED.
4. GREENE'S NEXT POINT CONCERNED THE DEMONSTRATION FLIGHTS WHICH TOOK PLACE LAST DECEMBER IN BOMBAY. THE INDIAN TEST PILOT MAINTAINED WEIGHTS OF FUEL, AMOUNTS USED ETC WERE DIFFERENT FROM WESTLANDS FIGURES. THEY ALSO CHANGED THE TEMPERATURE BASE FROM INDIAN REFERENCE ATMOSPHERE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ATMOSPHERE. THE LONG AND SHORT OF THIS ARGUMENT WAS THAT THE INDIANS MAINTAINED THAT AT HIGH TEMPERATURES THE W30 COULD ONLY BRING 9 (RATHER THAN 10) MEN BACK FROM A RIG. WESTLANDS MAINTAINED THEY COULD BRING 10 MEN BACK. TO SUPPORT THIS CLAIM THEY SAID THAT THE HELICOPTER WAS SERVICEABLE IN BOMBAY AND INVITED THE INDIANS TO CONDUCT ANY ADDITIONAL TESTS THEY WISHED. THE OFFER WAS NOT TAKEN UP.

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5. AT THIS POINT, GREENE SAID THESE WERE THE ONLY POINTS HE HAD TO RAISE. JONES SUGGESTED THAT IN VIEW OF PRIME MINISTERIAL INTEREST IT MIGHT BE AS WELL TO DISCUSS THE POINTS MR GANDHI RAISED WITH MRS THATCHER. DAULAT SINGH ASKED JONES WHAT THESE POINTS WERE AND WHEN JONES DECLINED TO TELL INDIAN OFFICIALS WHAT THEIR OWN PRIME MINISTER HAD SAID, SINGH SAID THERE WAS NO NEED TO DISCUSS THEM. GREENE THEN SUMMED UP BY SAYING THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT WESTLANDS COULD NOT ACHIEVE ZERO RISK AT TAKE OFF FROM THE RIG UNDER THE CONDITIONS LAID DOWN AND DISAGREEMENT OVER FUEL BURN, PAYLOAD AND CAPABILITY ON THE RETURN LEG. HE SAID THE INDIAN SIDE WOULD CHECK THEIR CALCULATIONS AND ASKED WESTLANDS TO DO THE SAME. WHEN ASKED IF THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER MEETING, HE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD CONTACT THE COMPANY IF ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AROSE.

### COMMENT

6. THIS WAS A STRANGE MEETING. JONES WENT IN EXPECTING, AS AGREED BY THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS, TO DISCUSS THE POINTS RAISED BY GANDHI. ONCE AGAIN WE WERE FACED WITH NEW POINTS NEITHER OF WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED OF ENOUGH SIGNIFICANCE TO CAST DOUBT ON THE ABILITY OF THE HELICOPTER TO PERFORM THE STATED ROLE. BUT ONCE AGAIN THE INDIAN SIDE ATTEMPTED TO MOVE THE GOAL POSTS: FIRST, BY REFERRING BACK TO THE ASR RATHER THAN THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES WHICH HAVE BEEN AGREED AND SIGNED BY BOTH SIDES, SECOND, BY CHANGING THE TEMPERATURE STANDARD.

7. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT THE INDIANS HOPED TO ACHIEVE BY RAISING THESE TWO HIGHLY TECHNICAL AND DEBATABLE POINTS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THEY STRENGTHEN THEIR HAND IN TURNING DOWN THE W3D AS WESTLANDS DEMONSTRATED THAT THE DAUPHIN IS MUCH WORSE ON BOTH POINTS. HOWEVER, I SHALL TRY TO ASCERTAIN FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S PS IF THE INDIAN SIDE WISH TO DISCUSS THE POINTS RAISED BY GANDHI OR WHETHER THEY ARE NO LONGER POINTS OF CONTENTION.

WADGERY

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SAB  
MAED  
TRED

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR RENTON

PS/PUS

SIR. W. HARBING

MR BRAITHWAITE

DR. WILSON

MR. MAUD.

A. D.

SUB - CONTINENT.