

Afghanistan
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FM KABUL 121000Z OCT 81

TO ROUTINE FCO TELNO 228 OF 12 OCTOBER 81

RPTD FOR INFO TO ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI, MOSCOW, WASHINGTON,
UKDEL NATO AND MODUK (D14)

SAVING TO UKMIS NEW YORK (FCO PSE PASS)

MY TELNO 225: AFGHANISTAN: SITREP.

POLITICAL

1. KABUL MEDIA RESPONDED IN A PREDICTABLY FORTHRIGHT MANNER
TO MRS THATCHER'S VISIT TO NW FRONTIER PROVINCE OF PAKISTAN.
KABUL RADIO REFERRED TO BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN'S
AFFAIRS FROM TIME OF ANGLO-AFGHAN WARS AND SAID BRITAIN WAS STILL
INTERFERING IN AFGHANISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND IN HER
RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. IT SAID WHILE AFGHANISTAN WAS SEEKING
A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OFF THE SITUATION AROUND AFGHANISTAN, MRS
THATCHER AND THE OTHER IMPERIALISTS WERE PREVENTING SUCH A SETTLE-
MENT FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT AND SUGGESTED THAT, INSTEAD OF
SPENDING TIME VISITING THE SO CALLED REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN, MRS
THATCHER SHOULD VISIT IRELAND AND THE POOR PEOPLE OF HER OWN
COUNTRY.

2. AN ARTICLE IN KABUL NEW TIMES (KNT) HEADED 'THAMES AND
N POTOMAC MEET TO BID TO DROWN HOPE OF PEACE' SAID THE
LADY'S VISIT TO THE PAKISTANI/AFGHAN BORDER WAS HIGHLY PROVO-
CATIVE AND SLANDEROUS. SHE PUBLICLY VOWED TO WORK, HOPE AND PRAY
FOR THE DOWNFALL OF THE LEGITIMATE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF
THE INDEPENDENT COUNTRY OF AFGHANISTAN. THE ARTICLE SAID THE
DONATION OF £2 MILLION TO THE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY RABBLE IN
PAKISTAN MEANS THAT THE BRITISH PM, IN CONCERT WITH WASHINGTON,
PEKING, ISLAMABAD AND CAIRO, IS GIVING MATERIAL SUPPORT TO OUT-
SIDE AGGRESSORS WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, SHE SHEDS CROCODILE TEARS
OVER THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN AFGHANISTAN. THE INTENTIONS OF MRS
THATCHER, AND THOSE LIKE HER, TO SINK THE SAUR REVOLUTION IN THE
BLOOD OF ITS SONS WILL NEVER COME TRUE AND THE 24 AUGUST PROPOSALS
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DRA ARE THE ONLY WAY TO NORMALIZE THE
SITUATION AROUND AFGHANISTAN.

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3. IN HIS EID-UL-ADHA MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN ON 7 OCTOBER, BABRAK KARMAL REPEATED THE AMNESTY OFFER TO ALL THOSE DECEIVED AFGHAN NATIONALS WHO ARE FIGHTING THE PEOPLE AND REVOLUTION, WHO VOLUNTARILY SURRENDER. HE ALSO REPEATED OFFER OF COMPLETE AND GENERAL AMNESTY TO ALL NOMADS AND CITIZENS WHO HAD BEEN COMPELLED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMETLAND UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF IMPERIALIST AND REACTIONARY PROPAGANDA OR DUE TO THE TERROR OF THE AMIN REGIME.

4. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE ISSUED A FIRM DENIAL OF PAKISTANI ALLEGATION THAT TWO DRA AIRFORCE PLANES ATTACKED A BORDER POST IN PAKISTAN. IT SAID THE FALSE AND BASELESS CLAIMS WERE TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH EFFORTS AT THE UN TO FIND A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE ISSUES AROUND AFGHANISTAN AND WERE INTENDED TO DIVERT THE ATTENTION OF WORLD OPINION WHICH WAS WAITING FOR A CLEAR AND EXPLICIT REPLY FROM THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT TO THE DRA PROPOSALS OF 24 AUGUST. THE ALLEGATIONS WERE ALSO AN ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY U.S. MILITARY AID TO PAKISTAN WHICH ENDANGERED PEACE, STABILITY AND SECURITY IN THE REGION.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER DOST RETURNED FROM NEW YORK ON 6 OCTOBER. POLITBURO MEMBER, MAHMOUD BARYLAI, LEFT KABUL ON 11 OCTOBER FOR A VISIT TO PDRY, AND ANAHITA RATEBZAD FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON 6 OCTOBER TO ATTEND CONGRESS OF WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION IN PRAGUE.

6. A PROTOCOL HAS BEEN SIGNED BETWEEN USSR AND DRA UNDER WHICH THE SOVIET UNION WILL HELP MODERNIZE AFGHANISTAN'S COMMUNICATIONS. THE AGREEMENT COVERS RADIO AND TELEVISION, A SURVEY OF THE POSTAGE SYSTEM AND APPLICATION OF MODERN TELEGRAPHIC TECHNIQUES.

SECURITY

7. THE RECENTLY FORMED NATIONAL DEFENCE COUNCIL (PARA 2 MYTELNO 203) WILL COMPRISE THE 8 POLITBURO MEMBERS, 8 ZONE GOVERNORS, GENERAL BABAJAN, GENERAL GULAKA, GENERAL NAZAR MOHAMMED, DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE COLONEL HALLILULAH AND FOREIGN MINISTER DOST.

8. THERE WAS FURTHER FIGHTING IN THE PAGHMAN AREA LAST WEEK. THERE WAS SOME SHELLING AND BOMBING OF PAGHMAN ITSELF BY AFGHAN FORCES WHICH SUGGESTS THAT GOVERNMENT ARE NOT IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE TOWN. THERE WERE ALSO REPORTS OF HELICOPTER ATTACKS ON VILLAGES IN THE PARWAN PROVINCE.

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9. TURKISH MA HAS RECEIVED A REPORT THAT THE SINDAND AIRBASE HAS BEEN REINFORCED WITH TWO SQUADRONS OF SOVIET MIG 25'S OR 27'S . HE ADMITTED SOURCE WAS OF UNCONFIRMED RELIABILITY AND THE REPORT SHOULD THEREFORE BE TREATED WITH SOME CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF RESERVE. IF TRUE, IT WOULD OF COURSE MEAN A SIGNIFICANT QUALITATIVE INCREASE IN SOVIET AIRFORCE CAPABILITY.

10. COLONEL MOHAMED SEDIQ ZAHIR HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN APPOINTED DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (TECHNICAL) (PARA 13 MY TELNO 221) .

PRESS DISTRIBUTION

11. PARA 9 NOT SUITABLE.

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THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
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