

Afghanistan

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TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1270 OF 18 NOVEMBER 1981
INFO PRIORITY ISLAMABAD, KABUL, WASHINGTON, PARIS
INFO SAVING OTHER EC POSTS, MOSCOW, TEHRAN

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MY TELNO 1265: AFGHANISTAN AT THE UNGA

1. THE AFGHANISTAN DEBATE ENDED THIS MORNING (18 NOVEMBER) WITH THE FINAL SIX SPEAKERS AND THE VOTE. GA RESOLUTION 36/34 WAS ADOPTED 116-23-12. THIS COMPARES WITH 111-22-12 FOR LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS IN TURN AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE 1979 VOTE.
2. THERE WERE SIX NEW POSITIVE VOTES: ANTIGUA-BARBUDA, BELIZE, VANUATU (NEW MEMBERS), BOLIVIA AND IRAQ (ABSENT IN 1980), AND ZIMBABWE (ABSTAINED LAST YEAR). UGANDA, WHO VOTED FOR LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTION, ABSTAINED THIS YEAR. THE ONE NEW NEGATIVE VOTE WAS LIBYA (ABSENT IN 1980).
3. THIS IS A SPLENDID RESULT FOR THE PAKISTANIS, AND VINDICATES THEIR DECISION TO DO VIRTUALLY ALL THE LOBBYING THEMSELVES SO AS TO MINIMISE THE EAST/WEST ASPECTS OF THE ISSUE. THEY BEAT OUT THE BUSHES VERY EFFECTIVELY AND MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO INCREASE THE VOTE AGAIN NEXT YEAR.
4. OF THE REMAINING SPEAKERS IN THE DEBATE, MRS KIRKPATRICK (UNITED STATES) DELIVERED A HARSH ATTACK ON THE SOVIET INVASION AND SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITIES IN AFGHANISTAN. THE INVASION HAD ALTERED THE CLIMATE AND COURSE OF WORLD POLITICS. IT HAD IMPELLED A WIDESPREAD REASSESSMENT OF THE WORLD SITUATION BASED ON A NEW AND MORE SOBER APPRECIATION THAT THE POLICIES OF THE SOVIET UNION POSED A THREAT TO GLOBAL STABILITY AND WORLD PEACE. THE INVASION MARKED A WATERSHED IN THE POST-WAR ERA, BRINGING TO A DEFINITIVE CONCLUSION A PERIOD OF OPTIMISM CONCERNING THE EVOLUTION OF SOVIET POLICY AND INTENTIONS.
5. MRS KIRKPATRICK SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN MANY ATTEMPTS IN THE PAST TO CONQUER AFGHANISTAN. WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE DEVASTATING ATTACKS BY GENGHIS KHAN, NONE OF THEM RESEMBLED THE DESTRUCTION WROUGHT IN AFGHANISTAN SINCE 1978. SOVIET PERSONNEL DIRECTED VIRTUALLY ALL ASPECTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE KABUL REGIME, INCLUDING COMMAND OF THE AFGHAN ARMY DOWN TO THE BRIGADE AND SOMETIMES COMPANY LEVEL. THERE WERE ONLY TWO REALITIES IN AFGHANISTAN TODAY: THE SOVIET OCCUPATION AND THE AFGHAN NATION, "AND NEITHER IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE OTHER".
6. THE DEBATE CONCLUDED WITH EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE, AND A SERIES OF RIGHTS OF REPLY BETWEEN IRAN, IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. IN THE COURSE OF THE LATTER, AFGHANISTAN SAID THAT DOST HAD COME TO NEW YORK AFTER INDICATIONS FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL THAT PAKISTAN WANTED TO CONTINUE INDIRECT EXCHANGES, ONLY TO FIND THAT AGHA SHAHI HAD ALREADY LEFT. THEY ACCUSED PAKISTAN OF BAD FAITH, WHICH NAIK DENIED. FOR BACKGROUND, SEE MIFT (NOT TO ALL).

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7. THERE WAS NO MENTION IN TODAY'S DEBATE OF RECENT ATTACKS ON PAKISTAN TERRITORY (YOUR TELNO 937 TO UKREP BRUSSELS). MRS KIRKPATRICK DID HOWEVER REFER TO THE FACT THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD SCATTERED LITTLE BOOBYTRAP MINES BY THE THOUSANDS, WHICH WERE OFTEN PICKED UP BY CHILDREN. THIS WAS AN EXAMPLE OF SOVIET VIOLATIONS OF THE CONVENTION WHICH THE SOVIET UNION HAD SIGNED ON 13 APRIL PROHIBITING THE USE OF ANTI-PERSONNEL WEAPONS.
9. FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO SAD AND NEWS DEPARTMENT.
10. FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING ATHENS, BONN, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, THE HAGUE, LUXEMBOURG, ROME, UKREP BRUSSELS, MOSCOW AND TEHRAN.

PARSONS

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