

GRS 1450

UNCLASSIFIED

FM ISLAMABAD 240615Z NOV 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 581 OF 24TH NOVEMBER 81

INFO SAVING NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, DELHI, KABUL, MOSCOW UKMIS
GENEVA AND MODUK (D14)

MY TELNOS 564 AND 565: SOVIET PLASTIC MINES IN PARACHINAR.

FOR THE FIRST TIME THE PAKISTAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ALLOWED JOURNALISTS TO GIVE EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF SOVIET/AFGHAN ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE-LAYING OPERATIONS AGAINST BOTH AFGHAN REFUGEES (IN MATAH SANGHAR UNHCR CAMP) AND PAKISTANI CIVILIANS. UNHCR CONFIRM THAT COAT VISITED THE AREA AND THAT REPORT IS CORRECT BUT THEY HAVE NOT YET HAD HIS WRITTEN REPORT. FOLLOWING IS ASSOCIATED PRESS PAKISTAN (APP) (THE OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY) REPORT:
REPORT:
BEGINS:

PARACHINAR, NOV. 23: A SPECTACLE OF HUMAN MISERY AND SUFFERING UNVEILS ITSELF IN THE AGENCY HEAD QUARTER HOSPITAL, PARACHINAR, WHERE LAY MORE THAN 12 YOUNG VICTIMS WITH THEIR FOOT BLOWN OFF BY THE IMPACT OF EXPLOSIONS OF MINES DROPPED BY THE AFGHAN HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS OVER THE PAKISTAN'S BORDER VILLAGES LAST WEEK. AN APP CORRESPONDENT, COVERING THE EVENTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE AFGHAN STRAFING AND MINING VISITED THE HOSPITAL: REPORTS THAT IT WAS THE MOST TOUCHING SCENE TO WITNESS IN A ROW 13 YOUNGMEN LYING IN THE HOSPITAL EACH WITH ONE FOOT BLOWN OFF BY MINE EXPLOSIONS. THEY ARE TURNED CRIPPLES FOR EVER IN CASE OF THEIR SURVIVAL. ANOTHER YOUNGMAN WAS SEEN WITH HIS BELLY RIPPED APART BY FALLING OVER A MINE WHILE RUNNING FOR SHELTER WHEN HE HAD HEARD FEARSOME ROARING OF HELICOPTERS ON THE DAY OF THE AFGHAN OPERATION. STILL ANOTHER YOUNGMAN, WHO HAD LOST HIS FOOT WAS SHIFTED THREE DAYS BACK TO A PESHAWAR HOSPITAL ON HIS REQUEST, THE HOSPITAL SOURCES SAID. ALL THE VICTIMS WHO ARE PAKISTANI NATIONALS GAVE AN IDENTICAL ACCOUNT THAT WHILE THEY WERE WALKING ABOUT THEIR FOOT TOUCHED A SOIL-COLOURED OBJECT, VISIBLY A TOY BIRD WHICH EXPLODED WITH VIOLENCE CHOPPING OFF THE FOOT. SOME OF THEM RECEIVED OTHER MINOR INJURIES TOO. THE MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE TOLD THE APP CORRESPONDENT THAT SINCE NOV. 17 A TOTAL OF 21 PERSONS INJURED DUE TO THE MINE EXPLOSIONS HAD REPORTED OUT OF WHOM SEVEN WERE DISCHARGED AFTER PROVIDING THEM THE FIRST AID. HE SAID THAT STILL THE MINE VICTIMS WERE COMING TO THE HOSPITAL AND THE LATEST ENTRY ON SUNDAY WAS A YOUNGMAN WITH HIS HAND SEVERELY WOUNDED.
LIFE SAVING DRUGS: THE MEDICAL OFFICER SAID THAT THE HOSPITAL HAD SUFFICIENT STOCKS OF GENERAL MEDICINES TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION. HOWEVER, HE SAID, IT REQUIRED MORE LIFE SAVING DRUGS. COMMENTING ON THE NATURE OF THE WOUNDS CAUSED BY THE MINES,

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HE POINTED OUT THAT THE WOUNDS WERE TAKING LONGER TIME IN HEALING AS COMPARED TO ORDINARY INJURIES. ASKED WHETHER THE CONTENTS OF THE EXPLOSIVES WERE POISONOUS HE SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO SAY ANYTHING ON THAT COUNT. ONLY THE EXPERTS COULD ESTABLISH HOW MUCH DEADLY THE INGREDIENTS WERE. HE HOWEVER SAID THAT THE AUTHORITIES WERE CONSIDERING TO SEND THE CONTENTS TO THE LABORATORIES IN PESHAWAR FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS. HE SAID THAT THE FLESH OF THE VICTIMS WAS TORN OFF ON THE AFFECTED PART OF THE BODY WHICH TOOK LONGER PERIOD TO HEAL. INTERVIEWED, THE WOUNDED ALSO GAVE AN IDENTICAL ACCOUNT AND SAID THE OBJECTS TOUCHING THEIR FOOT WERE BROWN AND SOIL-COLOURED.

VILLAGES MINED: THESE HAD RESEMBLANCE WITH THE BIRDS, TOYS AND OTHER ATTRACTIVE ARTICLES. THEY FEARED THAT AN EXTENSIVE AREA OF SEVERAL BORDER VILLAGES HAD BEEN MINED BY THE AFGHAN HELICOPTERS WHICH PENETRATED INTO PAKISTAN'S BORDERS. THE LOCALS REPORTED THAT THE CLEARANCE OPERATION FOR REMOVING THE MINES WAS CONTINUING WITH THE HELP OF GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. SOME OF THE LOCALS SAID THE PEOPLE IN THE BORDER VILLAGES NEAR HERE HAD BEEN ALERTED OF THE DANGER OF THE MINES. THE PEOPLE ON THEIR OWN WERE BUSY IN DESTROYING THE MINES BY STONE THROWING AND OTHER SIMPLE LOCAL DEVICES AVAILABLE TO THEM, THEY SAID. HUSSAIN GHULAM, 25 OF PEWAL VILLAGE WITH HIS CHOPPED OFF LEFT FOOT SAID THAT HE MOVED OUT OF HIS HOUSE IN THE DARK OF NIGHT SOMETHING TOUCHED HIS FOOT AND THE NEXT MOMENT HE LAY WITH HIS FOOT LOST. HE SAID THERE WERE SOME OTHER PERSONS WITH HIM WHO ALSO RECEIVED MINOR INJURIES AND DID NOT COME TO THE HOSPITAL. SABIT ALI, 40, OF SAHRA KILI VILLAGE, ABOUT THREE MILES FROM THE BORDER WHO HAS ALSO LOST HIS RIGHT FOOT, SAID THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO TOUCHED THE MINES TAKING THEM TO BE TOYS AND WERE WOUNDED. THE NEWSMEN, ACCOMPANYING THE UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE, MR ALLAIN COAT DURING HIS SATURDAY'S VISIT TO AFGHAN REFUGEES TENTAGE VILLAGES AT MATAH SANGHAR AND BASSU 15 MILES TO THE SOUTH OF PARACHINAR, OBSERVED THE ROARING AFGHAN HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS OVERFLYING THE PAKISTAN BORDER CLOSE TO THE CAMPS. LATER THE BOOMING OF GUNSHOTS WAS ALSO HEARD.

MOTHER OF 12: THE APP CORRESPONDENT WAS TOLD BY THE REFUGEES THAT THE AFGHAN WOMAN KILLED BY THE HELICOPTER STRAFING ON NOV. 17 HAD LEFT BEHIND 12 CHILDREN SEVEN BOYS AND FIVE GIRLS BETWEEN THE AGES OF TWO AND 25 YEARS. SHE HAD MOVED OUT OF HER TENT HEARING THE ROARING OF THE HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS ALONG WITH HER THREE CHILDREN IN CURIOSITY WHEN SHE WAS HIT BY A BULLET AND WAS KILLED ON THE SPOT. HER THREE CHILDREN INCLUDING A GIRL RECEIVED MINOR INJURIES. THE INJURED CHILDREN INCLUDED HAWAB JAN 9, QADAR JAN 4, AND MULTANA 6. THE GRAVE OF ZARNAWA WAS SEEN FROM SOME DISTANCE BY THE NEWSMEN. CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF THE SAVAGE ACT OF THE AFGHAN INVADERS AN ORATOR AT THE REFUGEE CAMP BAGHDAD GUL 32 COMMENTING ON THE INCIDENT SAID THAT THESE WERE THE CHILDREN WHO WERE BORN ON THE SOIL OF AFGHANISTAN AND WERE BROUGHT UP THERE. THEY WERE NOT SPARED EVEN AT A TIME WHEN THEY HAD LEFT THEIR HOMES AND HEARTHES AND TOOK REFUGE IN THIS ISLAMIC STATE. NADIR KHAN 50 AN ELDER AT BASSU CAMP, SPEAKING TO THE NEWSMEN DECLARED THAT EACH AND EVERY MAN WOULD FIGHT FOR THE LIBERATION OF AFGHANISTAN TILL HIS DEATH, THEN THE WOMEN WOULD FOLLOW THEIR MENFOLK.

COAT'S VISIT: MR ALLAIN COAT, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES IN PESHAWAR, ON SATURDAY, VISITED THE TENTAGE VILLAGES AND ADJACENT AREAS OF WHICH WERE STRAFED BY THE AFGHAN HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS LAST WEEK. EYE-WITNESSES TOLD A PRESS PARTY ACCOMPANYING MR ALLAIN COAT THAT THE AFGHAN HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS HAD APPEARED FROM ACROSS THE BORDER FROM THE DIRECTION OF KHARLACHI EARLY AFTERNOON. AFTER CIRCLING OVER THE AFGHAN REFUGEE TENTAGE VILLAGES, THE GUNSHIPS PENETRATED ABOUT 10 MILES DEEP INTO THE PAKISTAN TERRITORY AND STRAFED THE NEARBY AREAS ON RETURN. EYE-WITNESSES SAID THAT A FEMALE REFUGEE, ZARNA, WIFE OF TONA FROM VILLAGE SAID KARAAM ULASWALI IN PAKTIA PROVINCE OF AFGHANISTAN, WAS KILLED INSTANTLY DUE TO THE STRAFING. TWELVE OTHER REFUGEES, MOSTLY CHILDREN WERE ALSO WOUNDED BESIDES 15 LOCAL PEOPLE. EYE-WITNESSES SAID THAT THE GUNSHIPS ALSO DROPPED MINES AT SHANGAK AND SEVERAL OTHER PLACES CLOSE TO THE REFUGEE CAMPS. MINES IN THE SHAPE OF TOYS, BIRDS AND OTHER ATTRACTIVE OBJECTS EXPLODED RESULTING IN INJURIES TO A NUMBER OF AFGHAN REFUGEES. THE NEWSMEN WERE ALSO SHOWN EMPTIES OF MACHINE GUN BULLETS AND RECOVERED UN-EXPLODED MINES FROM THE AFFECTED AREAS.

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