

AFGHANISTAN

GRS 777

UNCLASSIFIED

FM MOSCOW 170756Z DEC 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 853 OF 17 DEC

INFO ROUTINE KABUL, ISLAMABAD, WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, UKMIS NEW YORK

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AFGHANISTAN

SUMMARY

1. THE FIRST AUTHORITYATIVE SOVIET STATEMENT ON AFGHANISTAN SINCE ANDROPOV'S ADVENT APPEARED AS AN UNSIGNED PRAVDA EDITORIAL ON 16 DECEMBER. IT WAS A RESOLUTE CONDEMNATION OF WESTERN INFLUENCE IN AFGHANISTAN AND MARKED NO CHANGE IN THE SOVIET POSITION. SOME STRONG WORDS WERE DIRECTED AT PAKISTAN.

DETAIL

2. THE ARTICLE WAS ENTITLED 'WHO OPPOSES A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE AFGHAN PROBLEM'. FOLLOWING IS AN ACCOUNT OF THE MAIN POINTS.

INTERFERENCE

3. THE EDITORIAL TOOK AS THE STARTING POINT FOR ITS INDIGNATION THE PASSAGE ON AFGHANISTAN IN THE NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS' COMMUNIQUE. DESPITE THEIR CALL FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION THE US AND ITS ALLIES ONLY USED THE AFGHAN QUESTION TO JUSTIFY INTERFERENCE IN THAT COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. ALMOST HALF THE ARTICLE WAS THEN DEVOTED TO A HISTORY (BEGINNING IN THE MID-70S) OF 'IMPERIALISM'S INTERFERENCE', INTENDED TO PULL AFGHANISTAN INTO AN ANTI-SOVIET ORBIT. BY THE END OF 1979 (IE BEFORE THE SOVIET INTERVENTION) OVER 100,000 BANDITS HAD BEEN ARMED AND SUPPLIED, PARTICULARLY WITH SOVIET WEAPONRY FROM EGYPT CHANELLED BY THE US INTO PAKISTAN.

THE SOVIET POSITION

4. AFGHANISTAN HAD BECOME VICTIM OF AN UNDECLARED WAP. IN VIOLATION OF THE UN CHARTER THE US HAD IN EFFECT EMBARKED UPON AGGRESSION. THE SOVIET DECISION TO AID THE DRA GOVERNMENT WAS TAKEN WHEN THE VERY EXISTANCE OF THE AFGHAN STATE WAS THREATENED, AND IN THE INTERESTS ALSO OF THE SECURITY OF THE USSR'S SOUTHERN BORDERS. SOVIET MILITARY AID WAS LIMITED AND TEMPORARY. 'THE SOVIET UNION

/DID NOT

DID NOT AND DOES NOT INTEND TO CONVERT AFGHANISTAN INTO A BASE AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES''. SOVIET TROOPS WERE READY TO WITHDRAW IN AGREEMENT WITH THE DRA GOVERNMENT WITHOUT DELAY UPON CESSATION OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AND GUARANTEES THAT INTERFERENCE WOULD NOT BE RESUMED. ''THE SOVIET UNION IS INTERESTED IN AFGHANISTAN REMAINING A NEUTRAL AND NON-ALIGNED STATE AND ITS GOOD NEIGHBOUR'' NOTHING HAD CHANGED IN THIS PRINCIPLED SOVIET POSITION.

DRA POSITION

5. THE DRA GOVERNMENT WAS DISPLAYING RESTRAINT IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS MILITARY MEASURES AGAINST INTERVENTIONIST BANDS. IT TOOK CARE TO PREVENT THE CRISIS SPREADING FURTHER. ''IT DOES NOT USE ITS LEGITIMATE RIGHT OF PURSUIT OF BANDIT FORMATIONS WHEN THEY RETURN TO THEIR FOREIGN OPERATIONAL BASES''. THE DRA DID NOT REACT TO PROVOCATIONS AND HELD OPEN THE PATH TO A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.
6. ''THE REVOLUTION IS DEVELOPING AND THIS PROCESS IN AFGHANISTAN IS IRREVERSIBLE''. A FIRM REBUFF MET THOSE WHO FUTILELY SOUGHT TO DEPRIVE THE AFGHAN PEOPLE OF ITS ACHIEVEMENTS. AFGHANISTAN AND ITS FRIENDS COULD DEFEND ITS RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE AND INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT, AND TO SOCIAL PROGRESS. THE SOONER ITS ENEMIES UNDERSTOOD THIS THE BETTER.

THE US POSITION

7. USING THE EVENTS AROUND AFGHANISTAN THE US WANTED TO BIND PAKISTAN TO ITS AGGRESSIVE POLICY. THE US NEEDED TENSION AT ALL COSTS. HENCE THE ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF WEAPONS TO AFGHAN BANDITS (INCLUDING ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES AND CHEMICAL AMMUNITION) AND THE DAMAGE DONE IN AFGHANISTAN.

PAKISTAN.

8. THE HISTORY OF INTERFERENCE WAS WELL KNOWN TO THE US, OTHER NATO COUNTRIES ''AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN''.
9. WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY IT HAS PROVED POSSIBLE TO BEGIN AFGHAN-PAKISTANI NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL. AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE WERE BEING TESTED THE TRUE INTENTIONS AND THE VALUE OF THE DECLARATION ON RESPECT FOR UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES. IF THE PROCESS OF A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WAS DEVELOPING EXTREMELY SLOWLY THIS WAS ABOVE ALL ''BECAUSE THE LEADERSHIP OF PAKISTAN BEHAVES INCONSISTENTLY''. JUDGING BY THE FACTS, ISLAMABAD WAS PRINCIPALLY

GUIDED BY CONSIDERATIONS OF EXPEDIENCY, BY A DESIRE TO SQUEEZE
MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM THAT GENEROSITY DISPLAYED BY THE USA AND
CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES TOWARDS THE ANTI-AFGHAN FORCES.

POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

10. THE WAY TO A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT LAY THROUGH AN EFFECTIVE
CESSATION OF EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE AND THROUGH THE ATTAINMENT OF
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF AFGHANHSTAN AND ITS NEIGHBOURS.
THE BASIS FOR SUCH A SETTLEMENT EXISTED. IT HAD BEEN LAYED DOWN
IN THE WELL-KNOWN PROPOSALS OF THE DRA GOVERNMENT OF MAY 1980 AND
AUGUST 1981 WHICH HAD GAINED THE BROAD SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL
PUBLIC. IN THE CONTEXT OF SUCH A SETTLEMENT, THE QUESTION OF THE
WITHDRAWAL OF THE SOVIET MILITARY CONTINGENT TEMPORARILY LOCATED IN
THE DRA'S COULD BE CONSIDERED.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES

SUTHERLAND

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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