

Afghanistan

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FM KABUL 291100Z DEC 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 194 OF 29 DECEMBER 1982

AND TO IMMEDIATE ISLAMABAD, PRIORITY DELHI.

MY TELNO 193: AFGHANISTAN: ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET INVASION.

1. LEVEL OF SHOOTING IN KABUL AFTER CURFEW LAST NIGHT WAS MUCH ABOVE THAT OF RECENT WEEKS. IT INCLUDED ARTILLERY, MORTARS, HEAVY AND LIGHT MACHINE GUNS AND AUTOMATIC RIFLES. WE HAVE SO FAR RECEIVED NO INFORMATION ABOUT TARGETS BUT FIRING WAS HEARD THROUGHOUT THE CAPITAL. IT WAS REPORTED PARTICULARLY HEAVY IN DARULAMAN AND KHAIR KHANEH DISTRICTS OF KABUL AND IN AREA BETWEEN PULE CHARKE AND BALA HISSAR. DARULAMAN CONTAINS NUMBER OF RUSSIAN OFFICES AND RESIDENCES AND THERE IS SOVIET MILITARY BASE IN KHAIR KHANEH.

2. POWER SUPPLY TO KABUL IS STILL DISRUPTED AND SOME AREAS HAVE HAD NO ELECTRICITY SINCE EVENING OF 27 DECEMBER. THIS EMBASSY HAS BEEN WITHOUT MAINS SUPPLY SINCE 2245 HOURS YESTERDAY. THERE HAS STILL BEEN NO OFFICIAL EXPLANATION FOR DISRUPTION BUT WE HAVE RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT ONE OF THE TURBINES AT THE PULE CHARKE GENERATING STATION WAS PUT OUT OF ACTION BY MUJAHIDEEN ROCKET ATTACK FOUR DAYS AGO AND HYDRO-ELECTRIC STATION AT MAHIPAR IN THE KABUL GORGE HAS ALSO BEEN DAMAGED BY MUJAHIDEEN ATTACK.

3. BY DAY, KABUL IS COMPARATIVELY QUIET BUT CONTINUING HIGH LEVEL OF SECURITY IS EVIDENT.

GARNER

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AFGHANISTAN STANDARD

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