

RESTRICTED

FM URMIS NEW YORK 240138Z NOV 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TEL NO 1435 OF 23 NOVEMBER 1983

INFO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI ISLAMABAD

INFO PRIORITY KABUL MOSCOW WASHINGTON

INFO ROUTINE LILONGWE BAGHDAD

INFO SAVING PEKING PARIS TEHRAN MAPUTO

MY TELNO 1418 (NOT TO ALL): UNGA DEBATE ON AFGHANISTAN:
CONCLUSION

SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING A FURTHER 15 STATEMENTS, RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY 116-20-17, A RECORD MAJORITY OF 96 VOTES. DEFECTIONS BY IRAQ AND MALAWI.

DETAIL

2. THE RESUMED DEBATE ON AFGHANISTAN TOOK UP MOST OF 23 NOVEMBER. THE STATEMENTS LARGELY FOLLOWED THE PATTERN OF THE PREVIOUS TWO DAYS. THE GDR, VIETNAM AND LAOS SPOKE ON THE AFGHAN SIDE. IN AN EXPLANATION OF VOTE, THE AFGHAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE REPEATED SALIENT POINTS FROM HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT: ACCUSED OTHER SPEAKERS OF INFLATING THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES FRAUDULENTLY; AND DECLARED THAT THE RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE NO LEGAL VALIDITY.

3. THE INDIANS TRIED TO BALANCE THEIR CRITICISM OF EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE IN AFGHANISTAN AND OF THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN TROOPS. THEY ARGUED THAT THE ANNUAL RITUAL OF AN ACrimonious DEBATE MADE DIALOGUE MORE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE AND WAS THUS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. THE AFGHANS WERE PAWNS IN AN INTERNATIONAL POWER PLAY, WHICH CARRIED DANGERS FOR REGIONAL SECURITY. THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION WAS NOT NOW ON THE SEARCH FOR AN IMMEDIATE REMEDY BUT ON COMPLICATED STRATEGEMS OF CONTAINMENT. THE EXISTING SITUATION COULD SERVE AS A PRETEXT FOR THOSE WHO WISHED TO CREATE FURTHER INSTABILITY IN THE AREA. WE SHOULD NOT SIT IN JUDGEMENT BUT WORK FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION BASED ON A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED. THE INDIANS QUOTED AT LENGTH FROM THE NEW DELHI NON-ALIGNED COMMUNIQUE: EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE SECRETARY GENERALS EFFORTS; AND DECLINED TO SUPPORT THE DRAFT RESOLUTION BECAUSE IT WAS ONCE AGAIN ONE SIDED. (THEY ABSTAINED AGAIN).

4. IN HIS EXPLANATION OF VOTE, THE IRANIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS NOT STRONG ENOUGH. IF THE CALL FOR A WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS WAS IMPLEMENTED, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION. HE REFERRED TO THE FUTILITY OF THE SECRETARY GENERALS EFFORTS.

5. THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAWI SAID IN AN EOY THAT MALAWI SUPPORTED THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE GA HAD NOT BEEN EFFECTIVE, AND THERE WAS NOW A STALEMATE. THERE SHOULD THEREFORE BE A CHANGE OF STRATEGY. MALAWI BELIEVED IN CONTACT AND DIALOGUE AS A MEANS OF SOLVING INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS AND WOULD ACCORDINGLY ABSTAIN.

6. AT THE END OF THE DAY THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE OF RIGHTS OF REPLY BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN, CENTERING ON THE QUESTION OF DIRECT TALKS AND ON THE TRU NUMBER OF REFUGEES.

