



BRIEF FOR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ZIA UL HAQ OF PAKISTAN
POINTS TO MAKE

Afghanistan

1. Unlikely that Soviet position over Afghanistan will change rapidly even when new leadership in place. Meanwhile important not to create false hopes in public.
2. UN-sponsored talks may provide best opportunity to test whether Russians any more prepared to contemplate withdrawal.
3. May therefore be advantage in Cordovez's next visit to region being postponed in order to allow time for Soviet position to evolve.
4. Hope refugee burden still manageable. We are continuing to help as much as possible.
5. (Only if conversation secure). Have heard indirectly of possible plans to exfiltrate small number of Soviet prisoners held by Mujahideen to West. What is Pakistani attitude?

Nuclear

6. Set great store by re-assurances that your nuclear programme only for peaceful purposes.
7. Therefore concerned at press reports of some remarks by Mr A Q Khan about Pakistan being able to enrich uranium and suggestions that she might also be in a position to develop a nuclear weapon.
8. If enrichment only for peaceful purposes, any objection to plant being placed under IAEA safeguards?
9. (If raised). No objection to UK firms tendering for Chasma reactor if it were placed under IAEA safeguards.

*Press
interview
in
Pakistan*

Pakistan/India

10. Concerned at recent increase in tension. Any chance of matters getting out of hand?

Kashmir (If raised)

11. Do not intend to become involved in Kashmiri politics following tragic death of Mr Mhatre and its aftermath.

South Asian Department

FCO

11 February 1984

ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. There was widespread interest at the time of President Brezhnev's funeral at the possibility of President Andropov having hinted at a softening of the Soviet position over Afghanistan in conversation with President Zia. Those hopes proved illusory as subsequent Soviet statements made clear. It seems unlikely that there will be any grounds for similar speculation on this occasion but it would be as well to warn President Zia about the risks of giving rise to false hopes. The best tactics might be to give the Russians any opportunity to change their policy over Afghanistan and not to force the new leadership into any premature re-affirmation of a hard-line position. This might entail delaying the next visit to the region (due in April) of the UN Secretary-General's Personal Representative, Senor Cordovez, who is a notoriously unreliable interpreter of both the Soviet and Pakistani positions. Nevertheless, the UN-sponsored talks are the only negotiating process on Afghanistan currently in being, and they have produced the broad outline of a settlement. The key to further progress remains solid evidence of the Soviet Union's willingness to withdraw its troops. We are maintaining our previous level of support for the refugees (about £2 million a year).
2. There is pressure from Lord Bethell and others for the West to accept for re-settlement a number of Soviet prisoners currently held by the resistance in Afghanistan. It would be useful to know whether Zia would be in favour of this happening.

3. Pakistan's leading nuclear scientist, Mr A Q Khan, is reported to have said in a recent press interview in Pakistan that Pakistan had now broken the nuclear powers' monopoly in enriching uranium; he also hinted that it could produce a nuclear bomb if necessary. Enriched uranium is not required for Pakistan's one existing nuclear reactor, KANUPP, and even for its projected second reactor at Chasma, which will use lightly enriched uranium, it would be economically wasteful to have a domestic production facility. The obvious implication therefore is that the enriched uranium is intended for nuclear weapons as Khan clearly hinted. It would therefore be appropriate to express concern and to ask President Zia, in effect, how these reports square with his frequent assurances (mainly to the Americans) that Pakistan's nuclear programme was for peaceful purposes. American leaders in Moscow may tackle him along similar lines.

4. Relations between India and Pakistan are currently somewhat tense. Mrs Gandhi's remarks at the time of last year's riots in Sind were seen as interference in Pakistan's internal affairs and Rajiv Gandhi has spoken recently of the threat of a further Pakistani invasion probably through Kashmir. It would be interesting to know whether President Zia sees these remarks as being intended simply for an internal audience in India, where an election is pending.

5. Following the abduction and murder of the Indian diplomat in Birmingham, Mr Mhatre, and the execution in India on 11 February of Maqbool Butt, founder of the Kashmiri Liberation Front, tension is running high in Kashmir. There were appeals from Kashmiris in Pakistan for the British Government to intervene on Butt's behalf and an MP made the same request to Sir G Howe, who replied that it would not be appropriate.

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