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FM ISLAMABAD 110625Z OCT 84

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 634 OF 11 OCTOBER 1984

INFO ROUTINE TO WASHINGTON, NEW DELHI, MOSCOW, UKRMS, NEW YORK  
AND KABUL

MY TELNO.614 : AFGHAN AIR ATTACKS ON PAKH-ISTAN

1. I DISCUSSED THE SITUATION YESTERDAY WITH ZIA UL HAQ,  
FOREIGN SECRETARY.

2. HE CONFIRMED THAT THESE ATTACKS WERE CAUSING THE PAKH-ISTAN  
GOVERNMENT CONSIDERABLE EMBARRASSMENT AND ANXIETY AND THAT  
PRESSURES WERE INCREASING FOR GOVERNMENT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM.  
THE NEW FACTOR WAS THE LAST ATTACK CONSISTED OF BOMBING FROM HIGH  
ALTITUDE WHICH MADE IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE PAKH-ISTANIS TO  
INTERVENE. IN ADDITION, THEY HAD EVIDENCE THAT A RUSSIAN AWACS  
WATCHED THESE ATTACKS FROM ACROSS THE FRONTIER AND THAT RUSSIAN  
FIGHTERS WERE SUITABLY DEPLOYED TO INTERVENE. THERE WERE PAKH-ISTAN  
SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES SCATTERED ALONG THE FRONTIER AND THEY  
MIGHT GET A RUSSIAN PLANE IF IT FLEW NEAR THEM BUT THEY COULD NOT  
DEAL WITH HIGH-LEVEL BOMBING ATTACKS.

3. HE TOLD ME IN CONFIDENCE THAT BECAUSE OF PAKH-ISTAN'S IMPOTENCE  
AGAINST THIS TYPE OF ATTACK, THEY HAD APPEALED TO THE AMERICANS TO  
HELP AND WERE DISCUSSING WITH THEM VARIOUS WEAPONS. THE AMERICANS  
WERE IN CONGRESSIONAL DIFFICULTIES ABOUT THE SUPPLY OF THESE,  
APART FROM SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, BUT YAQUB KHAN WOULD BE DISCUSSING  
IT ALL WITH WEINBERGER.

4. THEY WERE ALSO SENDING A MISSION TO CHINA LED BY THE  
SECRETARY GENERAL DEFENCE TO SEE WHAT THE CHINESE COULD DO TO  
HELP THEM.

5. MEANWHILE, THEY COULD ONLY GRIN AND BEAR IT. THEY HAD  
CONSIDERED COUNTER-BATTERY ACTION AGAINST THE SHELLING BUT HAD  
CONCLUDED THAT THIS WOULD BE LIKELY TO KILL INNOCENT AFGHANS ON  
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BORDER. ZIA HAD LAID DOWN THAT THERE WERE  
TO BE NO RETALIATORY ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT PROVOKE THE RUSSIANS.

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6. - HE DID NOT ASK FOR ANY HELP FROM US. HE WILL KEEP IN TOUCH  
WITH PAKISTAN THINKING ON THIS.

7. SEE MIFT FOR OUR DISCUSSION ON INDIA.  
FORSTER

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

AFGHANISTAN

STANDARD(PALACE)

SAD

SOV D

MED

FED

UND

ECD(E)

SEAD

NAD

NENAD

MR BOYD

CABINET OFFICE

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COL. JURY D14 MODUK

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