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message passed to NW
23/10

MR WICKS

23 October 1985

AFGHANISTAN TALKS WITH REAGAN

During talks between President Zia, David Mellor and Hartley Booth last week, Zia reported that he has good evidence that Soviet authorities in Afghanistan, in particular the Russian Army, are involved directly in passing opium and heroin to the West from Afghanistan through Pakistan. He had evidence that a drug addiction problem existed in the Russian Army of occupation in Afghanistan. This was not directly substantiated by US authorities in Pakistan (DEA or Embassy). However, it was supported by all relevant calculations that between 400 and 600 tons of heroin (ie 70% of world production) now emanates from Afghanistan. This assessment came from the DEA (US Drugs Enforcement Agency) and the PNCB (Pakistan Narcotics Control Board), and was on the basis of aerial photography in Pakistan and known production from Pakistan. There have been repeated calls for Reagan to raise this with Gorbachev.

pp HARTLEY BOOTH
D. Scola