

AFGHANISTAN

PS
 PS/LADY YOUNG
 PS/MR EGGAR
 MR GOODALL
 MR DEREK THOMAS
 SIR W HARDING
 DR WILSON
 MR SLATER

HD/SOVIET DEPT
 HD/NAD
 HD/DEFENCE DEPT
 HD/MED
 HD/NEWS DEPT

NO.10 DOWNING STREET
 ASSESSMENTS STAFF CABINET OFFICE

HD/SAD (4)
 DEP HD/PUSD (2)
 HD/UND
 HD/FED

RESIDENT CLERK

6.5.86

CONFIDENTIAL

FM UKMIS GENEVA

TO DESKEY 081715Z FCOLN

IMMEDIATE

TELNO 475

OF 081641Z AUGUST 1986

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, KADUL, ISLAMABAD
 INFO PRIORITY TEHRAN

MY TELNO 475: AFGHANISTAN: UN TALKS

1. PAKISTANI PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE BRIEFED ME THIS AFTERNOON (8 AUGUST). AHMAD SAID THAT THE BACKDROP TO THE RECENT SESSION HAD BEEN "OMINOUS". SINCE THE LAST ROUND, THE SOVIET UNION HAD ADHERED FIRMLY TO A FOUR YEAR WITHDRAWAL PERIOD; THIS WAS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. IN THE INTERIM, SOVIET PRESSURE ON PAKISTAN, IN THE FORM OF E.G. SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES, HAD BEEN STEPPED UP. PAKISTAN HAD ALSO BEEN CONCERNED AT THE SOVIET DEMARCHE ON NUCLEAR MATTERS OF 21 JUNE. HOWEVER, THE ATMOSPHERE IMPROVED WITH THE VLADIVOSTOK ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH HAD BEEN DESCRIBED IN ISLAMABAD AS A WELCOME FIRST STEP.

2. AT THE TALKS, AHMAD SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO SOVIET MOVEMENT ON THE LENGTH OF WITHDRAWAL PERIOD. THE PAKISTANI SIDE WOULD HAVE BEEN WILLING TO REVISE ITS OWN PROPOSAL IF A NEW SOVIET OFFER HAD APPEARED. CORDOVEZ HAD ASSURED THEM THAT A FRESH SOVIET OFFER WOULD COME, BUT ONLY AT OR NEAR THE END OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

3. HOWEVER, NEGOTIATIONS ON MONITORING HAD SCORED A SUCCESS. THE SOVIET UNION HAD INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD AGREE TO UN MONITORING OF THE AGREEMENT AS A WHOLE. THE DETAILS WOULD NEED TO BE ELABORATED. UN MONITORING WAS OF COURSE COMPLETELY ACCEPTABLE TO PAKISTAN.

4. THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSION OF REFUGEES, AS BROAD AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED AT EARLIER TALKS: BUT MODALITIES GOVERNING THE RETURN OF THE REFUGEES WOULD NEED TO BE WORKED OUT. THE SHORTER THE TROOP WITHDRAWAL PERIOD, THE EASIER IT WOULD BE TO CONVINCE THE REFUGEES TO RETURN.

OF THE REFUGEES WOULD NEED TO BE WORKED OUT. THE SHORTER THE WITHDRAWAL PERIOD, THE EASIER IT WOULD BE TO CONVINCING THE REFUGEES TO RETURN.

5. CORDOVEZ WOULD NOW KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED. HE WOULD THEN DECIDE FROM THESE CONTACTS WHEN THE NEXT MEETING SHOULD BE.

6. AHMAD SAID THE SOVIET UNION HAD NEGOTIATED SERIOUSLY, AND APPEARED TO WANT TO SETTLE. HE WAS OPTIMISTIC.

7. THE PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTER WILL BE TRANSITTING LONDON TONIGHT BEFORE LEAVING FOR DACCA TOMORROW TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN ASIAN COUNCIL.

SANKEY

YYYY

GBLHAN 1498

NNNN