

ADVANCE COPIES

22 ~~23~~

AFGHANISTAN

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR EGGAR

SIR D GOODALL

MR DEREK THOMAS

MR GILLMORE

DR WILSON

MR SLATER

HD/SAD (4)

DEP HD/PUSD (2)

HD/UND

~~HD/UND~~

HD/SOVIET DEPT

HD/MAD

HD/DEFENCE DEPT

HD/MED

HD/NEWS DEPT

NO. 10 DOWNING STREET

ASSESSMENTS STAFF CABINET OFFICE

RESIDENT CLERK

ADVANCE COPY 6.5.86

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

FM ISLAMABAD

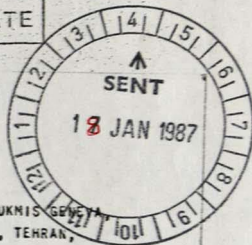
TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 034

OF 181015Z JANUARY 87

AND TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, KABUL, MOSCOW, ROME, UKMIS GENEVA

AND TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, DELHI, UKDEL NATO, TEHRAN,



AFGHAN PARTY LEADERS: STATEMENT ON CEASEFIRE

1. THE SEVEN AFGHAN PARTY LEADERS ISSUED THEIR EXPECTED JOINT STATEMENT AT A LARGE RALLY IN PESHAWAR ON 17 JANUARY. THE LEADERS REJECTED THE OFFER OF A CEASEFIRE, AND CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT COMPRISING MUJHADEEN WHICH WOULD SUPERVISE ELECTIONS TO A PARLIAMENT OF AN ISLAMIC STATE OF AFGHANISTAN.

2. SOUNDINGS OF PESHAWAR POLITICAL PARTIES INDICATE THAT UNITY ACHIEVED REFLECTS PARTICULAR ANXIETY ABOUT THE POSSIBLE PAKISTANI AND US RESPONSE TO THE WIDER SOVIET INITIATIVE. THE LEADERS ARE GROUING FOR A SATISFACTORY POLITICAL STANCE IN A VACUUM. THEY HAVE LITTLE IDEA OF WHAT THE USSR INTENDS IN PRACTICAL TERMS AND HAVE HAD LITTLE DETAILED GUIDANCE FROM EITHER THE PAKISTANIS OR THE AMERICANS. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, AWARE OF THE DELETERIOUS EFFECT OF THE RECENT SPATE OF SOVIET AND REGIME PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THEIR OWN POSITION. ONE LEADER SUMMARIZED THE NET EFFECT SUCCINCTLY: THE LEADERS ARE BEING SEPARATED FROM THE REFUGEES, THE PAKISTANIS FROM THE LEADERS; AND THE AMERICANS ARE BEING DETACHED FROM THE PAKISTANIS.

3. AT PRESENT, THERE IS LITTLE SIGN OF THE MODERATE PARTIES BREAKING RANKS (DESPITE THE MANY RUMOURS OF A ROLE FOR ZAHIR SHAH IN A GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION). PIR GAELANI TOLD CROOKE (IN CONFIDENCE - PLEASE PROTECT) THAT HE HAD SEEN THE EX-KING A MONTH AGO. THE LATTER ADMITTED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM (INDIRECTLY). GAELANI DID NOT KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE SOVIET PROPOSALS BUT SAID THAT THE EX-KING STILL WAS UNRESOLVED WHETHER TO RETURN TO KABUL AND WAS KEEPING THE SOVIETS AT ARMS' LENGTH FOR THE TIME BEING. INTERESTINGLY, GAELANI FORESAW AT BEST ONLY A VERY

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LIMITED ROLE FOR THE KING AS SYMBOL OF NATIONAL UNITY DURING THE  
INTERIM GOVERNMENT. GAELANI WAS ADAMANT THAT THIS ROLE WOULD END  
WITH THE ELECTION OF A HEAD OF GOVERNMENT AND THAT THERE WAS NO  
QUESTION OF THERE BEING A SUCCESSOR TO ZAHIR, AKSING,

4. HEKMATYAR SPOKE AT THE GATHERING IN PREDICTABLE TERMS LABELLING  
THE SOVIET INITIATIVE AS AN ATTEMPT TO LEGITIMISE THE KABUL REGIME.  
RABBANI AND SAYYAF WARNED THE REFUGEES AGAINST RETURNING TO  
AFGHANISTAN.

FYJIS-WALKER

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