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FM MOSCOW

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELNO 1039

OF 161300Z JUNE 88

INFO ROUTINE KABUL, ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

INFO ROUTINE UKMIS GENEVA

INFO SAVING PARIS, BONN, ROME, RIYADH

MY TELNO 1018: USSR/AFGHANISTAN

SUMMARY

1. FURTHER OBLIQUE WARNING TO THE US IN A PRAVDA EDITORIAL, WHICH CONTINUES THE ATTACK ON PAKISTAN. SOVIET DENIAL THAT TROOP WITHDRAWAL TIMETABLE HAS CHANGED.

DETAIL

2. THE FRONT PAGE LEADER IN PRAVDA OF 16 JUNE IS HEADED 'OBSERVING THE GENEVA AGREEMENTS'. THE FIRST TWO THIRDS OF THE EDITORIAL DESCRIBE AGAIN HOW THE GENEVA AGREEMENTS CAN PROVIDE 'THE KEY TO THE SETTLEMENT OF CONFLICT SITUATIONS. IN THIS SENSE THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN AFGHANISTAN HAS BECOME A SORT OF POLITICAL LABORATORY'. THE EXPERIENCE OF RECENT DECADES AND THE WHOLE HISTORY OF THE EVOLUTION OF EVENTS AROUND AFGHANISTAN SHOWED THE 'RUINOUSNESS AND FRUITLESSNESS OF ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS BY THE MILITARY PATH. ARMED INTERFERENCE IN AFGHANISTAN AFFAIRS AND THE CONVERSION OF PAKISTAN INTO A LAUNCHING PAD FOR AGGRESSION HAVE NOT PRODUCED THE RESULTS ON WHICH THE ORGANISERS OF THE UNDECLARED WAR CALCULATED'. THE LEADER THEN HOLDS UP COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION OVER THE GENEVA AGREEMENTS AS A POSITIVE EXAMPLE OF THE WAY TO SOLVE REGIONAL CONFLICTS: IT ALSO HIGHLIGHTS THIS CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF UN MACHINERY.

2. WHAT ONE ASSUMES TO BE THE REAL POINT OF THE ARTICLE IS REACHED IN THE LAST FIVE PARAGRAPHS, WHICH ONCE AGAIN DEAL WITH NON-COMPLIANCE WITH GENEVA. AS IS USUAL, THE CORRECT BEHAVIOUR OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE ROA IS UNDERLINED. 'HOWEVER, TOGETHER WITH OPTIMISM, THE SITUATION AROUND AFGHANISTAN EVOKES SERIOUS ANXIETY. IT IS INTOLERABLE WHEN

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ONE SIDE CARRIES OUT ITS OBLIGATIONS, BUT THE OTHER SIDE BREAKS THEM IN THE MOST FLAGRANT MANNER. AND PRECISELY THIS IS TAKING PLACE'. THE EVIDENCE SHOWED THAT PAKISTAN WAS NOT FULLY IMPLEMENTING THE GENEVA AGREEMENTS, BUT, AS BEFORE, WAS ALLOWING ITS TERRITORY TO BE USED BY ARMED GROUPS OF THE AFGHAN OPPOSITION. 'IN THESE CONDITIONS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE POSITION OF WASHINGTON. THE UNITED STATES ARE EVIDENTLY FORGETTING ABOUT THE FACT THAT AN SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY RESTS ON THEM, TOGETHER WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THEY ARE GUARANTORS OF THE GENEVA AGREEMENTS, GUARANTORS OF THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, AND ARE OBLIGED IN THIS SPIRIT TO EXERCISE INFLUENCE ON THE PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES. THERE IS AND CAN BE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THE FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE GENEVA AGREEMENTS, WHICH LAY CLEAR OBLIGATIONS ON THEIR PARTICIPANTS.'

SOVIET TROOP WITHDRAWAL

3. FILE SEPARATELY, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOVIET GENERAL STAFF HAD REBUTTED THROUGH TASS SUGGESTIONS IN THE WESTERN MEDIA THAT THE TIMETABLE FOR SOVIET TROOP WITHDRAWAL HAD BEEN CHANGED AND THAT SOME UNITS HAD RETURNED TO THE SITES OF THEIR FORMER DEPLOYMENT. PE HAS STATED THAT THE WITHDRAWAL IS CONTINUING IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH THE TIMETABLE.

COMMENT

4. WHILE THE PRAVDA LEADER DOES NOT BREAK SUBSTANTIALLY NEW GROUND, AN ARTICLE OF THIS STATUS GIVES FURTHER EMPHASIS TO WHAT HAS BECOME ALMOST A DAILY THEME IN THE SOVIET MEDIA AND IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH A SECOND REMINDER WITHIN A FEW DAYS TO THE UNITED STATES OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

CARTLEDGE

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