

CONFIDENTIAL
UK COMMS ONLY
FM KABUL
TO DESKBY 261500Z FCO
TELNO 74
OF 261400Z JANUARY 89
AND TO DESKBY 261500Z NEW DELHI, DUBAI
INFO IMMEDIATE ISLAMABAD, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW
INFO PRIORITY ROME, PARIS, BONN, ANKARA, TOKYO, UKMIS NEW YORK
INFO PRIORITY UKMIS GENEVA, MODUK, ACTOR

SIC A2D
MODUK FOR EVANS

*This is a bit
of a blow. I fear
we shall probably
have to follow
suit. can.*

KABUL CONTINGENCY PLANNING: THE AMERICANS

SUMMARY

1. AMERICAN EMBASSY TO BE CLOSED AND PERSONNEL EVACUATED ON 3 FEBRUARY. SOME ARGUMENTS FOR NOT FOLLOWING SUIT. EARLY INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTED.

DETAIL

2. MY US COLLEAGUE TOLD ME THIS EVENING THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CLOSE HIS EMBASSY AND EVACUATE ALL AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY. HE HAS ARRANGED TO CHARTER AN ARIANA BOEING 727 ON FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY FOR THIS PURPOSE. BUT THERE WILL BE NO REPEAT NO SPARE SEATS FOR TOTHERS.

3. GLASSMAN DESCRIBED THE INSTRUCTION AS A BOLT FROM THE BLUE. LESS THAN A WEEK AGO WASHINGTON HAD ACCEPTED HIS RECOMMENDATIONS ON A REDUCED MISSION TO SIT OUT THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. STATE HAD GIVEN NO EXPLANATION FOR THEIR DECISION, BUT BALDLY STATED THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD DECIDED TO CLOSE THE EMBASSY. GLASSMAN WILL BE TALKING TO FLATEN LATER THIS EVENING, AND HAS SAID HE WILL PASS ON ANY MORE INFORMATION HE PICKS UP.

4. I REALISE, HAVING ATTENDED MEETINGS IN LONDON LAST WEEK, THAT THE AMERICAN DEICISION WILL WEIGH HEAVILY IN FAVOUR OF YOUR DECIDING WE MUST FOLLOW SUIT (ON WHICH SEE MIFT), BUT WE ARE NOT NECESSARILY IN THE SAME POSITION AS THEY ARE, AND ANY

RECONSIDERATION OF OUR PLANS NEEDS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF OTHER FACTORS. THE PRINCIPAL ONES ARE:

A. WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE SEEN AS A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE MUJAHEDDIN.

B. ONCE CLOSED IT WOULD BE A POLITICAL ACT TO REOPEN THE EMBASSY. IF THE PDPA REGIME LASTED SEVERAL MONTHS, THE WEST WOULD BE UNSIGHTED ON EVENTS IN KABUL. SIMILARLY, TO REOPEN IF AN UNATTRACTIVE FUNDAMENTALIST GROUP CAME TO POWER WOULD BE TO ENDORSE THEIR REGIME, WHEREAS IF WE HAD STAYED OPEN SUCH AN ENDORSEMENT WOULD ONLY COME THROUGH THE APPOINTMENT OF AN AMBASSADOR.

C. A WESTERN DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE MIGHT DETER BOTH SIDES FROM EXCESSES.

5. IF YOU DECIDE TO CLOSE, WE SHALL HAVE TO ENGAGE IN SOME FAIRLY FAST FOOTWORK TO BE AT THE FRONT OF THE QUEUE WHEN THE AMERICAN DECISION LEAKS AND THE BANDWAGGON STARTS ROLLING. SOME EARLY THOUGHTS ARE LISTED IN MIFT. ALL RECIPIENTS PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE NOW INTO THE KABUL WEEKEND, AND FOR OPERATIONAL REASONS DESKBY TELEGRAM ONLY WILL BE RECEIVED BEFORE SUNDAY 0530Z. PLEASE CONSIDER MINIMISE.

6. GRATEFUL FOR VERY EARLY INSTRUCTIONS.

MACKLEY

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

192

MAIN

173

.KABUL: CONTINGENCY PLANNING
LIMITED
SAD
CONSULAR D
DEFENCE D
ECD(E)
FED
FINANCE D

TSD
UND
WED
PS
PS/MRS CHALKER
PS/LORD GLENARTHUR
PS/MR EGGAR
PS/PUS

PAGE 2

CONFIDENTIAL UK COMMS ONLY

*no paper
in position
to handle
—
views
—
—
—
Fr & lts*