

SECRET



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Rich. Austin

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MO 6/19/4D

PRIME MINISTER

KASHMIR

I have seen a copy of Douglas Hurd's minute of you of 24th May on Kashmir. I believe that the approach proposed is correct, and that if conflict breaks out we should seek international support for an arms embargo to both India and Pakistan.

2. However, this leaves open the question of how we should react if we fail to achieve co-ordinated international action. Although I note that the Foreign Secretary believes we cannot do less than in the Iran/Iraq war, the circumstances in the case of India and Pakistan are somewhat different, with very large defence sales interests which would inevitably be jeopardised by unilateral action. I therefore believe we would need to consider our course of action very carefully should hostilities develop and the Five fail to agree co-ordinated approach.

3. Copies of this go to all members of OD and to Sir Robin Butler.

D.

Ministry of Defence
lsc June 1990

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INDIA: Foreign Pol - May 79

