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PA/HO, Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
June 9, 2005

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ACTION: Amembassy NEW DELHI
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SUBJ: Indian FonSec's Call on Secretary, Oct. 14

- FonSec
- At outset of call on Secretary, Oct. 14, Kaul said Indian FonMin wished him to find out about U.S. policy in South and Southeast Asia. Secretary replied he thought our bilateral relations were off to good start. Both President and he felt good about their visit to Delhi and there was every prospect for much better relations ahead. We have thus far refrained from providing arms to Pakistan, although this under review.
 - Secretary then reviewed Asian policy, mentioning reduction of U.S. military and civilian presence.

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The Secretary

CLEARANCES:

NEA - Mr. Van Hollen fo

NEA - Mr. Sisco fo

EA/VN - Mr. Rosenthal fo

XX: S/S - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Mr. Eliot

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Department of State
TELEGRAM

INDICATE:

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Page 2

Referred to importance of regional cooperative arrangements, explaining that U.S. not thinking of new security arrangements although we intend maintain existing commitments. Stated we do not necessarily expect alignment with us but also do not want alignment against us. U.S. does not intend tie aid to policies of our friends.

3. Secretary continued that prospects for U.S.-Indian relations quite good except for matter he had discussed with FonMin, i.e. Indian proposal establish Embassy in Hanoi. Indian recognition of Hanoi without similar action in South would pollute atmosphere with regard to Executive Branch, Congress and American people. Every program USG engages in abroad depends upon support of the Congress which would construe Indian recognition as anti-American move. It would be difficult to assign any

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INDICATE:
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Page 3

other motive to Indian action. Secretary noted India already has representative in Hanoi with personal rank of Ambassador who is available for any desired communications. Indian recognition would be inconsistent with its neutral role in ICC. Secretary pointed to fact that India has, as a matter of policy, avoided diplomatic relations with divided countries. If it recognized Hanoi at time U.S. engaged in military operations, American people could draw only one conclusion: India would be deliberately taking sides at time of war. U.S. reaction would not be temporary. It would have serious and lasting effect. This could not be stressed too strongly. Speaking for President, Secretary said he could report we were just beginning to see way toward very good and close relations with India. Requested Kaul convey his views to PriMin and FonMin.

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INDICATE:
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STATES OF

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ACTION: Page 4

4. Kaul expressed satisfaction no decision made on arms policy. Stated if policy changed it would have grave repercussions in Indian Parliament. Kaul then stated Indians were worrying about future of Asia, given new U.S. policy of detente with China. Said people were asking if U.S. working up some kind of understanding with Soviet Union and China. Asked what would become of other nations. Secretary replied that U.S. moves were modest attempts improve relationship with Mainland China and had not been reciprocated. Expressed surprise that India would be concerned over our desire improve relations, in view traditional/^{Indian} policy. Suggested India might improve its relations with China. Kaul recalled Indian experience in 1962, xxx referred to Mrs. Ghandi's recent conciliatory statements and said there had been no Chinese response.

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Page 5

5. Reverting to issue of relations with Hanoi, Kaul said decision not yet made. It would be based upon Indian interests, interests of region, and interests of world peace. Initiative was taken by North Vietnamese who wanted Indian friendship to help meet difficulties which would come with peace. Kaul explained Indian impression was Hanoi wanted to limit influence of Soviets and Chinese. GOI wanted representative who could present Indian views and, indeed, U.S. views at highest level. Kaul repeated usual explanation for not elevating representation in South. Expressed hope U.S. Congress would understand Indian recognition of Hanoi would be carried out not to hurt U.S. but to improve prospects for peace and orderly evolution following peace.

6. Secretary questioned that Indians required Embassy in order to communicate with Hanoi. Stated Indian

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ACTION:

Page 6

action would ~~destroy~~ destroy all possibility of India's playing role of peacemaker, since India would have publicly taken sides. Secretary asked that Indians weigh their own interests carefully. Said that Indian recognition would cause tremendous difficulty with American public and Congress. Latter would find no reason for it except that India ~~w~~ wished take position in favor of country with which we were at war. This would make improved U.S.-Indian relations, which we hoped for, quite ~~im~~ impossible.

78. In reply, Kaul expressed hope U.S.-Indian relations depended upon deeper factors than this. Said Indian effectiveness in Asia depended upon its playing independent role. Secretary agreed but said action with regard to Hanoi would not be "independent" but would be lining up with other side.

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ACTION:

Page 7

Also present at
& D. XX/the meeting were Mr. Sisco, Mr. Van Hollen and
Mr. Schneider on the American side. With FonSec Kaul
were Indian Ambassador Jung and Mr. S. K. Lambah.

ROGERS

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