

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

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.4

MIN 969006

By STVSW Date 1/2/98



Department of State

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TELEGRAM

YNPOC 15-1 PAK

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02646 01 OF 02 222144Z

YNPOC PAK-W5

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ACTION SS-45

INFO: OCT-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 FILE-01 /047 W
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TO: SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3159

10-28-78
USUN - 2646

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 2646

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SECTO 52

DEPT PASS RAWALPINDI, CAIRO, AMMAN

SUBJ: SEC VISIT UNGA: SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH
PAKISTAN PRESIDENT YAHYA

SUMMARY: YAHYA EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH REMOVAL OF
U.S. ARMS EMBARGO. REGARDING PAKISTAN ELECTIONS HE
ENVISAGED SIX MONTHS PERIOD AFTER CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
ESTABLISHED BEFORE CONSTITUTION COULD BE DRAFTED AND NEW
GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED. IF THINGS DO NOT GO AS PLANNED
YAHYA DID NOT KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN - PERHAPS A
PLEBESCITE. SECRETARY ADVISED THAT A NEW PL 480 PROGRAM
WAS NEARING COMPLETION AND PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD HAVE MORE
TO SAY ON THIS SUBJECT. CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION ABOUT ME
WITH YAHYA STATING THAT RESULT HIS MEETINGS IN CAIRO HE
BELIEVED SADAT WOULD FOLLOW NASSER POLICY BUT COULD GO NO
FURTHER RE PEACE. HE FELT UAR KEEN ON SETTLEMENT BUT NEEDS
HELP - OTHERWISE UAR WILL BE IN "DESPERATE STRAITS".
SECRETARY POINTED OUT DANGERS IF GA DEBATE SHOULD RESULT IN
UNDERMINING RES. 242. END SUMMARY.

2. CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE IN ROOM 35A OF WALDORF AT
10:15 A.M. OCTOBER 21. US PARTICIPANTS WERE SECRETARY,
ASST. SECY SISCO, AND SLATOR BLACKISTON. PAKISTANI
PARTICIPANTS WERE PRESIDENT YAHYA; FOREIGN SECRETARY KHAN;
AMBASSADOR TO U.S. AGHA HILALY; AMBASSADOR AGHA SHAHI,
PERMREP; MR. NAYEK, DIRECTOR UN AFFAIRS IN FOREIGN

3

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PAGE 02 USUN N 02646 01 OF 02 222144Z

MINISTRY, AND MR. ZAHIR FAROOQI, MINISTER, PAKISTAN
EMBASSY, WASHINGTON.

2. SECRETARY EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT PRESIDENT YAHYA WAS
IN U.S., SAID PRESIDENT NIXON WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR
MEETING. SECRETARY BELIEVED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR
TWO COUNTRIES HAVE IMPROVED. PRESIDENT AGREED. "YOUR DECISION
(RE ARMS) HAS BEEN MOST WELCOME IN PAKISTAN".

3. SECRETARY SAID WE ALWAYS HAVE PROBLEM WITH SOVIETS
BUT WHEN WE INDICATE DESIRE TO GET ALONG IN A REASONABLE
WAY SOME PEOPLE THINK THIS MEANS THE U.S. IS GETTING
SOFT OR MAY BE LOSING INTEREST. HE FELT THE RUSSIANS NOW
UNDERSTAND THAT OUR DESIRE TO GET ALONG DOES NOT MEAN
A WEAKENING OF RESOLVE. PRESIDENT SAID THAT U.S. HAS
BEEN BROUGHT INTO A POSITION WHERE IT MUST SHOULDERS
WORLD PROBLEMS. HE BELIEVED U.S. POSTURE OF MODERATION WAS
APPRECIATED BY BOTH RUSSIANS AND COMMUNIST CHINESE EVEN
THOUGH THIS NOT STATED PUBLICLY. SECRETARY NOTED THAT USSR
HAD CLOSED OUR AIR CORRIDOR TO BERLIN ON EVE OF 4-POWER
MEETING DURING CERTAIN HOURS WHEN WE NORMALLY DO NOT USE THE
CORRIDOR. WE HAD ACCORDINGLY SENT AIRCRAFT INTO BERLIN
AT PRECISELY THE TIME THE RUSSIANS HAD CLOSED IT. WHEN
GROMYKO CAME HERE SECRETARY ASKED HIM WHAT THIS WAS ALL
ABOUT SINCE THE SOVIET UNION HAD PROFESSED A DESIRE FOR
BETTER RELATIONS. GROMYKO BLAMED IT ALL ON A
SUBORDINATE'S DECISION. SECRETARY HAD SAID THAT THIS WAS
A LITTLE HARD TO TAKE BUT IF THIS IS WHAT GROMYKO WANTED
TO SAY HE WOULD ACCEPT IT.

4. SECRETARY ASKED ABOUT ELECTIONS IN PAKISTAN. YAHYA
SAID SOME OF "HIS" POLITICIANS HAD MADE THE CHARGE THAT
THE ELECTIONS HAD BEEN POSTPONED BECAUSE OF U.S. ARM TWIST-
ING. PRESIDENT SAID HE COULD FIND NO CONNECTION
BETWEEN TWO ELEMENTS. WITH RAMADAN COMING POLITICIANS SHOULD
COOL OFF. AFTER ELECTIONS AND THE FORMATION OF THE CON-
STITUENT ASSEMBLY NEXT STEP IS DRAFTING OF A NEW CON-
STITUTION. PAKISTAN ALREADY HAS HAD THREE CONSTITUTIONS
AND THE CONSTITUTIONS OF MOST COUNTRIES ARE ALL ABOUT THE
SAME. JUST A FEW CHANGES HERE AND THERE TO SUIT THE
PARTICULAR SITUATION. FOR PAKISTAN IT IS A MATTER OF
ALLOCATION OF POWERS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE

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PAGE 03 USUN N 02646 01 OF 02 222144Z

PROVINCES. "IF THEY CANNOT DRAFT A CONSTITUTION IN 120 DAYS THEY WILL NEVER DO SO." SECRETARY OBSERVED THAT THE SEPARATION OF POWERS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE STATES IS NOT PRECISE IN THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. WE OWE MUCH TO THE INTERPRETATIONS HANDED DOWN BY JOHN MARSHALL. PRESIDENT BELIEVED THAT IN "FIRST STAGE" THERE WOULD BE A COALITION GOVERNMENT. HE (YAHYA) WOULD APPOINT A PRIME MINISTER AND THEN A PRESIDENT WOULD BE ELECTED. WHEN THIS TOOK PLACE YAHYA WOULD LIFT MARTIAL LAW. ALL OF THIS SHOULD TAKE ABOUT SIX MONTHS. SECRETARY SAID THIS SOUNDS GOOD AND WE WILL WATCH WITH INTEREST AS IT DEVELOPS. PRESIDENT REMARKED THAT HOLDING OF ELECTIONS WAS DIFFICULT BUT THE LATER STAGES WOULD BE EVEN MORE SO. IF A CONSTITUTION IS NOT DRAFTED "I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN - PERHAPS A PLEBESCITE. THE BIGGEST MISTAKE MADE BY PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION WAS THAT IT CONSIDERED THE COUNTRY ONE UNIT WHICH IT IS MOST. [NOT?]

5. SECRETARY SAID A NEW PL 480 AGREEMENT IS IN THE FINAL STAGES. HE THOUGHT THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE SOME MORE TO SAY ON THIS SUBJECT. MR. SISCO SAID THAT WE WERE LOOKING AT VARIOUS PROJECTS FOR FLOOD RELIEF AND CONTROL IN EAST PAKISTAN.

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED RAWALPINDI, CAIRO AND AMMAN.

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