

NND 969039
By ST/USA Date 4/3/98

Department of State

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USED TO SUSTAIN THE WAR EFFORT WAS CONTRARY TO PRINCIPLES OF THE AID PROGRAM. WHILE NOT WISHING TO ARGUE THE POINT, THE UK HAD DECIDED NOT TO SUSPEND ITS AID TO INDIA AND HAD HOPED THAT THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM WOULD NOT BE CARRIED FURTHER. THE UK BELIEVED THAT AID POLICY SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED THROUGH THE CONSORTIUM, AND HMG HAD NOT ATTEMPTED TO PRESS ITS POINT OF VIEW ON OTHER CONSORTIUM MEMBERS. THE UK WAS DISAPPOINTED, THEREFORE, TO LEARN THAT THE US HAD USED ITS INFLUENCE TO PERSUADE SOME OTHER GOVERNMENTS, SPECIFICALLY JAPAN AND GERMANY, TO ADOPT SIMILAR POSITIONS ON AID TO INDIA.

4) BANGLA DESH ATTITUDES. TOMLINSON SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE EXTENT OF US CONTACTS OR INFORMATION VIS-A-VIS BANGLA DESH REPRESENTATIVES. BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THEM, UK OFFICIALS WERE CONVINCED THAT BANGLA DESH LEADERS WOULD NOT SETTLE FOR ANYTHING LESS THAN COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE. TOMLINSON OBSERVED THAT THE UK WAS NOT ITSELF ADVOCATING BANGLA DESH INDEPENDENCE AND THAT A CONFEDERAL ARRANGEMENT OR ANY OTHER SOLUTION WHICH MIGHT BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN WEST AND EAST PAKISTAN WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE UK, BUT STARK REALITY LED THE UK TO CONCLUDE THAT INDEPENDENCE WAS INEVITABLE. IF THE US ASSESSED THE SITUATION DIFFERENTLY, THE UK WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO KNOW.

5) US VIEWS ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF EARLIER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND BANGLA DESH REPRESENTATIVES. TOMLINSON NOTED THAT UK OFFICIALS HAD BEEN PUZZLED BY EARLIER STATEMENTS BY A HIGH US OFFICIAL TO THE EFFECT THAT THE US BELIEVED NEGOTIATIONS WHICH THE US HAD BEEN TRYING TO FACILITATE BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND BANGLA DESH REPRESENTATIVES COULD HAVE LED TO POSITIVE POLITICAL RESULTS. THE UK WONDERED WHETHER THE US HAD INFORMATION OTHER THAN WHAT HAD BEEN AVAILABLE TO THE UK AT THAT TIME, BECAUSE THE VIEW OF UK OFFICIALS HAD BEEN THAT EVEN IF SUCH TALKS COULD HAVE BEEN ARRANGED THEY HELD OUT LITTLE IF ANY HOPE FOR PROGRESS.

6) WITHDRAWAL OF INDIAN FORCES FROM EAST PAKISTAN. TOMLINSON SAID THE UK WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO LEARN THE BACKGROUND OF US THINKING ON THIS PROPOSAL. IN UK VIEW,

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MAIN OBJECTIVE NOW IS TO PREVENT MASSACRES OF PAKISTANI FORCES AND BIHARIS IN EAST, AND UK BELIEVES ONLY ORGANIZED FORCE IN EAST CAPABLE OF PREVENTING SUCH HORRORS IS INDIAN ARMY. UK HAS SOUGHT AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM INDIAN GOVT THAT INDIAN FORCES WOULD CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN MANNER TO MINIMIZE LOSS OF LIFE AND ENSURE HUMANE TREATMENT. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, UK BELIEVES IT WOULD BE SERIOUS MISTAKE TO INSIST THAT INDIAN FORCES WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY, EVEN IF THAT WERE REALISTIC POSSIBILITY.

7) INDIAN INTENTIONS RE TERRITORIAL GAIN. TOMLINSON REITERATED WHAT PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID PREVIOUSLY (LONDON 11295), I.E., UK ASSESSMENT IS THAT INDIA DOES NOT HAVE OBJECTIVE OF TERRITORIAL GAINS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME EQUIVOCATION ON AZAD KASHMIR BUT BELIEVED THAT STATEMENTS BY PRIMIN GANDHI AND SWARAN SINGH COULD BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE. UK WONDERED WHETHER US ASSESSMENT DIFFERED.

8) SECURITY COUNCIL. TOMLINSON WENT OVER SAME GROUND AS PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN SECRETARY (LONDON 11295) BUT NOTED THAT INFORMATION JUST RECEIVED INDICATED POSSIBILITY THAT US MAY NOW BE WILLING TO ACCEPT LANGUAGE ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY UK FOR SC RESOLUTION.

9) COMMENT: IN VIEW CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN SECRETARY DECEMBER 12 AND SUBSEQUENT REMARKS TO US BY FCO JUNIOR MINISTER ROYLE EXPERSING CONCERN ABOUT US-UK COOPERATION ON INDIA-PAKISTAN SITUATION, WE WERE NOT SURPRISED THAT TOMLINSON CALLED US IN FOR CANDID TALK. THERE WAS NO NOTE OF CENSURE IN WHAT HE SAID, BUT RATHER HOPE AND DESIRE THAT THE US AND UK GOVTS COULD FIND WAYS TO SHARE THEIR THINKING MORE FULLY AND WORK IN CLOSER HARMONY. GP-3.
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