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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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-2- KARACHI 722, APR 03, NODIS

4. BHUTTO SAID HE HAD ONE REQUEST TO MAKE OF US. THIS WAS THAT, AFTER RECOGNITION, USG SHOULD PROVIDE MAIN PORTION OF ITS ECONOMIC AID TO BANGLADESH BILATERALLY TO GBD RATHER THAN THROUGH UN. HE THOUGHT BILATERAL AID WOULD TEND TO MAXIMIZE IMPACT OF US HELP TO BD, AND THUS BE MOST USEFUL IN BROADEST TERMS IN LIGHT OF VARIOUS INFLUENCES WORKING ON BANGLADESH. I REMARKED THAT I APPRECIATED INTENT OF BHUTTO'S SUGGESTION, BUT HAD TO POINT OUT THAT WE WERE OPERATING UNDER DECISION ALREADY MADE TO PROVIDE MAJOR PORTION OF OUR HELP TO BD THROUGH UN OR OTHER MULTILATERAL CHANNELS. WE HAD ALREADY ANNOUNCED SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE VIA UN. I NOTED THAT PROVISION OF INCREASING SHARE OF USG ECONOMIC AID THROUGH MULTILATERAL CHANNELS REFLECTED DECISION WHICH PRESIDENT NIXON HAD MADE WITH REFERENCE TO US AID GLOBALLY WELL OVER A YEAR AGO. I REITERATED APPRECIATION FOR BHUTTO'S SUGGESTION AND SAID I WOULD REPORT IT PROMPTLY ALTHOUGH I WANTED BHUTTO TO KNOW ABOUT BROADER POLICY TREND IN ADMINISTRATION OF US AID.

5. LOCAL PRESS APRIL 3 CARRIED TICKER TIMES DATED WASHINGTON ATTRIBUTING TO USG OFFICIALS THAT DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO RECOGNIZE BANGLADESH EARLY THIS WEEK; ITEM IN SAME VEIN WAS CARRIED BY VOA MORNING APRIL 3.
LUPPI

NOTE: NOT PASSED ISLAMABAD BY OC/T.

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