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PA/HO, Department of State
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June 9, 2005

Pol India - US

AND 969039
By _____ Date *4/14/83*

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FORM DS 322(OCR)

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NEA/INS:DHKUX:NM/JD
11/13/71#2, EXT 21289
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

NEA - MR. SISCO

S/S - MR. BARNES

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207769

ROUTINE NEW DELHI

ROUTINE ISLAMABAD, DACCA, USUN NEW YORK, BONN,
KATHMANDU, COLOMBO

SUBJECT: CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY BY INDIAN FOREIGN
SECRETARY-DESIGNATE

JMS
DHK
JJS
S/S

1. SUMMARY: DURING NOVEMBER 13 CALL, INDIAN FOREIGN
SECRETARY-DESIGNATE KEWAL SINGH AND INDIAN AMBASSADOR
JHA HAD GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PROBLEMS OF
INDO-US RELATIONS AND RECENT SOUTH ASIA DEVELOPMENTS
WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY IRWIN. BOTH KEWAL SINGH AND
DEPUTY SECRETARY EXPRESSED HOPE FOR IMPROVED INDO-US
RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY-DESIGNATE KEWAL SINGH,
ACCOMPANIED BY INDIAN AMB. JHA, CALLED ON DEPUTY SECRETARY
IRWIN NOVEMBER 13. KEWAL SINGH, WHO CURRENTLY GOI
AMBASSADOR TO BONN, HAS BEEN VISITING UN FOR ABOUT ONE
WEEK AND SPENT DAY IN WASHINGTON.

3. KEWAL SINGH SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO TAKING
OVER NEW POSITION IN DECEMBER AND WOULD "WORK EARNESTLY"
FOR BETTER INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. DEPUTY SECRETARY
COMMENTED THAT US TOO WANTED BETTER RELATIONS WITH
INDIA. HE NOTED THERE EXISTED SIMILARITY IN LONG RANGE
INTERESTS AND AIMS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE,
BOTH WISHED POLITICAL STABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA -- A
CENTRAL FACTOR BEING INDIAN'S ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS
TOWARD ITS SOUTH ASIAN NEIGHBORS -- PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND GENERAL REDUCTION OF LEVEL OF
TENSIONS IN THE WORLD.

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4. DEPUTY SECRETARY STATED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S INITIATIVE VIS-A-VIS MOSCOW AND PEKING AND ALSO JAPANESE INITIATIVE TOWARD PEKING WERE USEFUL STEPS FOR PEACE. THEY INTRODUCED NEW ELEMENT OF FLEXIBILITY INTO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND MADE POSSIBLE GREATER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. REGARDING POSSIBLE INDIAN CONCERNS ABOUT IMPROVED SINO-US RELATIONS, DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT OUR EFFORTS IN NO WAY DIRECTED AGAINST INDIA NOR DID WE HAVE ANY DESIRE TO PLAY CHINA OFF AGAINST THE USSR.

5. AMB. JHA ASKED WHAT SPECIFICALLY SEEMED TO BOTHER US MOST WITH RESPECT TO INDIA. PUTTING ASIDE DIFFERING POLICIES WITH REGARD TO BANGLADESH CRISIS AND RELATED ISSUES, DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT THERE APPEARED EXIST SUSPICION OF US BY INDIA THAT WENT BEYOND NORMAL DIS-AGREEMENT OVER POLICY QUESTIONS. US ALSO THOUGHT THAT INDIA MADE EFFORT TO GO BEYOND "NORMAL" LENGTHS IN CRITICIZING US ACTIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND ELSEWHERE. SIMILARLY, WE WERE DISTURBED BY WAY INDIA HANDLED CERTAIN INDO-US BILATERAL ISSUES, SUCH AS FALSE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT CIA, QUESTION OF EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND RELATED CULTURAL MATTERS. WE DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY INDIANS DO SUCH THINGS AS MAKING FALSE CHARGES ABOUT CIA.

6. IN TURN, AMB. JHA AGREED THAT THERE IN FACT NO REAL CONFLICT OF INTERESTS BETWEEN US AND INDIA. DIFFI-CULTIES OFTEN APPEARED MORE IN TERMS OF ATMOSPHERICS AND WAY PROBLEMS HANDLED BY TWO SIDES. FOR VARIOUS REASONS, MUTUAL LACK OF CONFIDENCE HAD DEVELOPED WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO "PRESENT VICIOUS SPIRAL." FROM INDIAN STANDPOINT, JHA SAID, THERE HAD BEEN ONE PERSISTENT PROBLEM, NAMELY US ARMS ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN. WHILE INDIANS UNDER-stand US RATIONALE, SUCH AID NONETHELESS ADDED TO SECURITY THREAT AS PERCEIVED BY INDIA.

7. KEWAL SINGH COMMENTED THAT WITH REGARD TO FUTURE, HE HAD NOT SLIGHTEST DOUBT THAT INDIA WANTED GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES OF SOUTH ASIA. INDIA WANTED TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH PAKISTAN AND EARNESTLY HOPED IT COULD SOLVE INDO-PAK PROBLEMS IN SPIRIT OF SIMLA ACCORDS. IT ALSO HOPED PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH COULD START DIALOGUE AFTER RECOGNITION. HE WAS VERY OPTIMISTIC THAT INDIA COULD WORK WITH NEIGHBORS.



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8. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID WE ALSO REGARDED THE SIMLA AGREEMENTS AS SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD AND WERE HOPEFUL THAT INDIA COULD ESTABLISH HARMONIOUS RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. RETURN OF THE POW'S WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD, AS WELL AS RESOLUTION OF QUESTION OF WAR CRIMES TRIALS. US WAS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO POW QUESTION, BECAUSE OF HANOI'S USING OUR POW'S FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. DEPUTY SECRETARY ADDED THAT IT UNFORTUNATE THAT BOTH BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN SEEMED TO BE TAKING "SET POSITIONS" WITH RESPECT TO MUTUAL PROBLEMS WHICH MADE IT HARDER TO RESOLVE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. HE SAID ANYTHING INDIA COULD DO TO ASSIST TWO SIDES TO A SOLUTION WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL.

9. KEWAL SINGH EMPHASIZED THAT INDIA EARNESTLY DESIRED THE SIMLA AGREEMENTS BE IMPLEMENTED FULLY AND REGRETTED DELAYS WHICH HAD OCCURRED SO FAR. WITH REGARD TO INDO-US RELATIONS, HE CONCLUDED THAT THERE NO REASON WHY NOT ONLY "NORMAL BUT FRIENDLY" RELATIONS COULD NOT BE RESTORED. IN THIS RESPECT, SINGH EXPRESSED HOPE THAT LONG POSTPONED US-INDO BILATERAL TALKS MIGHT BE RESCHEDULED, IN WHICH CASE HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO WELCOME DEPUTY SECRETARY TO NEW DELHI.

10. COMMENT: HALF-HOUR DISCUSSION PROVIDED USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. KEWAL SINGH SEEMED INTENT ON UNDERSCORING POSITIVE AND STRESSING ~~HOPE FOR IMP~~ HOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT IN INDO-US RELATIONS.

11. DECLASSIFICATION: GDS. 44

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