



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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NOD116

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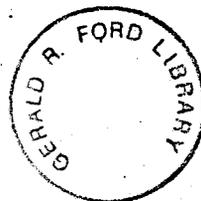
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E.O. 11652: GOS
TAGS: MPOL, AF, PK, IN
SUBJ: MILITARY SUPPLY - SOUTH ASIA, AFGHAN REACTION

1. I CALLED ON DEFFONMIN (DE FACTO FOREIGN MINISTER) WAHEED ABDULLAH AT 4:00 P.M. KABUL TIME (1130 GMT) FEBRUARY 23 IN HIS OFFICE AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA).
2. INTRODUCED PRESENTATION BY SAYING THAT INFORMATION I WAS CONVEYING WAS CONFIDENTIAL AND URGED THAT IT BE CLOSELY HELD IN AFGHAN GOVERNMENT (GUA) UNTIL RELEASE IN WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 24. THEN DREW UPON GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN STATE 40691, 37039, AND 40693 TO MAKE PRESENTATION TO ABDULLAH. CONCLUDED BY SAYING I WOULD HAVE TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT BY AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 24 AND URGED HIM AND GUA TO WITHHOLD COMMENT UNTIL FULL TEXT COULD BE STUDIED.
3. MR ABDULLAH EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL APPRECIATION THAT IT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE TO GIVE HIM ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND INDICATED THAT NEWS OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE CLOSELY HELD IN THE AFGHAN GOVT UNTIL MONDAY NIGHT.
4. ABDULLAH THEN SAID THAT HIS FIRST REACTION TO THIS NEWS WAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN (GOP) WOULD USE "UNLIMITED ARAB MONEY" THAT IT HAS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ARMS FROM THE U.S. HE SAID THAT AFGHAN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES HAVE

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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
STATE DEPT, GUIDELINES, State visit 9/23/02
NARA, DATE 1/28/03



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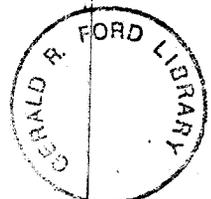
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DISCOVERED THAT COLONEL QADHAFI HAS JUST TOLD PRIMIN BHUTTO THAT PAKISTAN WOULD HAVE AMPLE FUNDS TO BUY ARMS. I POINTED OUT TO MR ABDULLAH THAT THERE WAS NO NECESSARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR ANNOUNCEMENT ON LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO AND PAKISTAN'S REARMAMENT SINCE THERE WERE OTHER SOURCES OF MILITARY SUPPLY WHICH PAKISTAN COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF. I ALSO REMINDED MR ABDULLAH THAT UNDER THE TERMS OF THE NEW POLICY EACH SALE WOULD BE REVIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF U.S. CONCERN OVER THE EFFECT OF SUCH A SALE ON REGIONAL STABILITY.

5. MR ABDULLAH THEN SAID HE WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT IF THE GOP INCREASES ITS ARMS ARSENAL AFGHANISTAN WOULD HAVE TO DIVERT FUNDS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR DEFENSE PURPOSES. I REFERRED TO THE SECRETARY'S THREE PRINCIPLES RELATING TO DECISION IN ARMS AREA AND URGED THAT THE GOA STUDY ITS OVERALL SECURITY SITUATION CAREFULLY PRIOR TO MAKING A DECISION TO DIVERT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDS.

6. MR ABDULLAH THEN SAID THAT LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO BY THE U.S. WOULD ENCOURAGE PRIMIN BHUTTO TO TAKE A VERY TOUGH STAND IN THE NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE (NWFP) AND BALUCHISTAN. MR ABDULLAH SAID THE SITUATION IS ALREADY BAD --NOTING THE REPORTED SPREAD OF UNREST TO THE SIND AND PUNJAB (ABDULLAH NOTED TO ME SARCASTICALLY AT THIS POINT THAT THE GOA HAD MORE POWER THAN IT REALIZED IF IT COULD FOMENT UNREST IN THE PUNJAB). I SAID THAT WASHINGTON HOPED THAT GOA WOULD NOT GIVE UP HOPE OF ACCOMODATION WITH GOP AND WOULD KEEP WORKING FOR MEANS FOR RECONCILIATION.

7. MR ABDULLAH THEN SAID THAT THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN THE MOST RESTRAINED IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN. HE SAID HE FEARED THAT WE WERE ON THE BRINK OF A NEW INSURGENCY -- A "BANGLADESK SITUATION". REFERRING TO ABDULLAH'S REMARK AND TO THE EMBASSY'S CONVERSATION EARLIER THIS WEEK WITH AJMAL KHATTAK, THE PUSHTUNISTAN LEADER IN EXILE (SEPTEL), I SAID I WAS DISTURBED AND I SAID I THOUGH THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE DISTURBED BY ANY INCREASED REFERENCES IN AFGHAN PUBLIC DOMAIN TO TERRORIST ACTS. I SAID THE U.S. DEPLORED TERROR AND THAT IT SIMPLY LEADS TO MORE VIOLENCE AND DETERIORATION OF POLITICAL SITUATIONS.



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7165/IPS, Department of State

E.O. 12958, as amended

October 11, 2007

Department of State.

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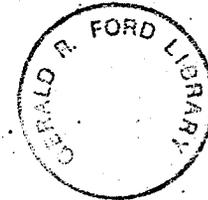


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8. MR ABDULLAH SAID THAT AFGHANISTAN HAS NO TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AGAINST PAKISTAN AND SUPPORTS THE INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN. HE SAID GOA IS ONLY INTERESTED IN HAVING THE PUSHTU AND BALUCHI PEOPLE OBTAIN THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THE PAKISTAN CONSTITUTION. HE SAID IF WE WERE TO HEAR THAT SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN HAD REVIEWED THE ARREST CASES AND HAD RELEASED PERSONS UNJUSTLY ARRESTED ("SUCH AS WALI KHAN AND OTHER NAP FIGURES") AND IF GOP THEN ASKED FOR BILATERAL TALKS, GOA WOULD WELCOME SUCH TALKS. ABDULLAH SAID GOP HAS USED SHERPA INCIDENT TO DESTROY CONCILIATION PROCESS WHICH HAD BEEN DUE FOR MAJOR STEP FORWARD ON FEBRUARY 15 WHEN AGA SHAKI WAS DUE TO COME TO KABUL.

9. CONVERSATION CONCLUDED WITH STATEMENT THAT ABDULLAH APPRECIATED ADVANCE NOTIFICATION, WOULD STUDY TEXT WHENN MADE AVAILABLE, AND WOULD REVIEW POINTS I HAD MADE ON BEHALF OF DEPARTMENT.
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