

FM KABUL 091000Z NOV 81

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 245 OF 9 NOVEMBER 1981

AND TO ISLAMABAD, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, NEW DELHI, UKDEL NATO  
AND MODUK (D14)

SAVING TO UKMIS NEW YORK UKREP BRUSSELS, UKMIS GENEVA, JEDDA,  
PEKING, TEHERAN, TOKYO, ROME, BONN, THE HAGUE,  
BRUSSELS, LUXEMBOURG, PARIS, DUBLIN, COPENHAGEN  
AND ATHENS ( FCO PLEASE PASS TO ALL )

MY TELNO 242: AFGHANISTAN:

STIREP.

POLITICAL

*See paras 9-11*  
*mt*

1. INDRAJIT GUPTA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS (AITUC), AND MEHENDRA, COMMITTEE MEMBER OF AITUC, VISITED AFGHANISTAN FROM 28 OCTOBER TO 4 NOVEMBER. THEY CALLED ON BABRAK KARMAL AND POLITIBURO MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL FATHERLAND FRONT, DR. ZEARY. AT A FACTORY MEETING IN KABUL, MEHENDRA SPOKE OF THE NEED TO CONSOLIDATE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE WORKERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AGAINST THE "FILTHY DEEDS OF IMPERIALISM AND REACTION". HE CONVEYED THE GOOD WISHES OF INDIAN WORKERS TO THE AFGHAN WORKING CLASS IN THEIR DEFENCE OF THE GAINS OF THE SAUR REVOLUTION AND IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND REACTION.
2. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE DEPARTURE, GUPTA CONDEMNED THE FALSE PROPAGANDA OF IMPERIALIST STATES. HE SAID IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES IN COLLUSION WITH CHINA AND PAKISTAN WIDELY CAPITALIZE ON TWO MATTERS, THE RELIGION OF ISLAM AND THE PRESENCE OF THE SOVIET UNION'S LIMITED MILITARY CONTINGENT IN AFGHANISTAN. HE SAID THEY WERE FAMILIAR WITH IMPERIALIST PROPAGANDA AND THEIR EXPLOITATION OF ISLAM BECAUSE THEY HAVE 80 MILLION MUSLIM COMPATRIOTS. GUPTA SAID THEY MET A NUMBER OF AFGHAN CLERGYMEN DURING THEIR STAY WHO TOLD THEM OF THE CONCERN OF THE DRA GOVERNMENT IN BUILDING AND MAINTAINING MOSQUES AND HOLY PLACES. THIS CONFIRMED THE FALSE PROPAGANDA OF WESTERN SOURCES WHICH IS USED BY THE MILITARY REGIME OF PAKISTAN AS AN EXCUSE TO OBTAIN MODERN ARMS AND MONEY TO STRENGTHEN ITS REGIME AND TO THREATEN INDIA. GUPTA SAID ON HIS RETURN TO INDIA HE WOULD INFORM THE PEOPLE OF THE TRUTH OF THE SAUR REVOLUTION AND OF FACTS ABOUT THE LIFE OF WORKERS IN AFGHANISTAN.

# CONFIDENTIAL

3. GUPTA'S REFERENCE TO ISLAM IS INTERESTING AND ACCORDS WITH DRA GOVERNMENT LINE. THE REGIME HAVE ALWAYS STRESSED THE ISLAMIC NATURE OF THE REVOLUTION AND THIS WAS SUBJECT OF EDITORIAL IN KABUL NEW TIMES (KNT) OF 3 NOVEMBER. KNT EDITORIAL OF 5 NOVEMBER ON MOSLEM HOLY DAY OF MUHARAM ALSO DWELT AT LENGTH ON THIS POINT. DRA POLICY SEEMS TO BE NOT TO ANTAGONIZE OLDER GENERATION, WHO ARE UNLIKELY EVER TO BE CONVERTED TO MARXISM, BUT TO CONCENTRATE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG.
4. PRIME MINISTER KESHTMAND WHO LEFT AFGHANISTAN ON 28 OCTOBER FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO BULGARIAE( MY TELNO 236) HAS NOT YET RETURNED. WE HAVE HEARD FROM AN UNOFFICIAL ( BUT RELIABLE SOURCE THAT HE IS NOW IN MOSCOW FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.
5. ABDUL SATAR SHALIZI, WHO WAS MIPUTY PM TO MAYWANDWAL UNDER KING ZAEHER AND WHO HAS BEEN LIVING IN EXILE IN THE USA HAS, ACCORDING TO UNOFFICIAL BUT RELIABLE REPORTS, RECENTLY RETURNED TO AFGHANISTAN. THE REASONS FOR HIS RETURN ARE NOT KNOWN, BUT IT HAS GIVEN RISE TO SPECULATION THAT REGIME ARE HOPING TO PERSUADE HIM TO JOIN THEM.
6. A FORMER AFGHAN EMPLOYEE OF THE US EMBASSY IN KABUL, WHO WAS DISMISSED FOR DISHONESTY, APPEARED AT A TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE ON 5 NOVEMBER. HE GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN AFGHANISTAN AND OF HOW US EMBASSY RECRUITS SPIES FOR ITS INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS. HE NAMED NAMES. KNT HAVE PROMISED TO PUBLISH LATER FULL DETAILS OF PRESS CONFERENCE.
7. NON-ATTENDANCE BY WESTERN GROUP AT SOVIET EMBASSY RECEPTION TO MARK OCTOBER REVOLUTION HAS CLEARLY IRKED THE RUSSIANS MY FRG COLLEAGUE, AFTER HAVING BEEN RPOMISED INFORMATION ABOUT SOVIET ECONOMIC AID TO AFGHANISTAN, WAS TOLD BY MINISTER OF SOVIET EMBASSY THAT AS HE AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES HAD BOYCOTTED THEIR RECEPTION, THEY SAW NO REASON WHY THEY SHOULD PROVIDE US WITH ANY INFORMATION.
8. A PROTOCOL FOR EDUCATIONAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GDR AND DRA WAS SIGNED IN EAST BERLIN BY DR YAKUBI, MINISTER OF EDUCATION.
9. SHOOTING CAN STILL BE HEARD IN THE CAPITAL ON MOST NIGHTS AFTER THE CURFEW. ON THE NIGHT OF 7 NOVEMBER IT WAS PARTICULARLY WIDESPREAD AND HEAVY. EXTENSIVE FIRING AS WELL AS TANK MOVEMENTS WERE REPORTED IN THE EAZIR AKBAR KHAN AREA AND WE ALSO RECEIVED REPORTS OF HEAVY AND PROLONGED FIRING IN THE KHAIR KHANA, BINI HASSAR AND DARULAMAN DISTRICTS OF KABUL. THERE WAS A

## SECURITY

2  
CONFIDENTIAL

(REPORTED)

## CONFIDENTIAL

REPORTED ROCKET ATTACK ON A BUILDING IN THE MACRO RAYON AREA ON NIGHT OF 4/5 NOVEMBER. KNT OF 8 NOVEMBER REPORTED A SERIES OF SUBVERSIVE AND TERRORIST ACTS ON A BUILDING IN THE AREA ON THE SAME NIGHT. MOST OF THE BUILDINGS IN THE MACRO RAYON AREA, WHICH

ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY SOVIET OF AFGHAN GOVERNMENT OCCUPIED, ARE NOW GUARDED BY APC'S.

10. THE MUJAHIDEEN RING AROUND KABUL SEEMS TO BE CLOSING. IN THE WEST, THE AREA BEYOND KARGA ( ABOUT 8 KMS FROM KABUL ) IS VIRTUALLY IN THE HANDS OF THE MUJAHIDEEN. IN THE SOUTH EAST THE ROAD TO LOGAR BEYOND THE VILLAGE OF CHIWAKI, ABOUT 10 KMS FROM KABUL, IS ALSO SAID NOW TO BE CONTROLLED BY MUJAHIDEEN AND UNSAFE FOR TRAVELLERS.

11. REPORTS FROM KHANDAHAR INDICATE THAT ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE STILL IN CONTROL THE MUJAHIDEEN ARE INFILTRATING BACK. ( PARA 11 MYTELNO 240 ) .

### PRESS DISTRIBUTION

12. PARA 7 NOT SUITABLE

GARNER

STANDARD  
SAD  
EEST  
MEJ  
FEJ  
UNI  
ECJ (E)  
CABINET OFFICE

COPIES SENT TO  
No. 10 DOWNING STREET

THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED

[PASSED AS REQUESTED]