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FM KABUL 271015Z DEC 82

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 191 OF 27 DECEMBER 1982

AND TO ROUTINE ISLAMABAD, DELHI, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, UKDEL NATO,
MODUK (DI4)SAVING TO UKMIS NEW YORK, UKREP BRUSSELS, JEDDA, UKMIS GENEVA,
PEKING, TEHRAN, TOKYO AND ALL EC POSTS.NY TELNO 187: AFGHANISTAN: SITREP. 

POLITICAL.

1. KARMAL AND KESHTMAND RETURNED TO KABUL FROM MOSCOW ON 26 DECEMBER (PARA 1 MTUR). BAKHTAR OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY (BONA) REPORTED THAT KARMAL AND ANDROPOV HAD "A COMRADELY CONVERSATION" ON 23 DECEMBER. THEY AFFIRMED THAT INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF DRA AND INTERVENTION FROM OUTSIDE WAS MAIN OBSTACLE TO PEACE

IN AFGHANISTAN. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL AFGHAN/SOVIET RELATIONS AND PROCLAIMED FIRM INTENTION TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF SITUATION AROUND AFGHANISTAN ON BASIS OF THE WELL KNOWN PROPOSALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF DRA.

2. IN A TELEVISED SPEECH ON 18 DECEMBER, FOREIGN MINISTER DOST OUTLINED FOREIGN POLICY OF DRA. HE SAID NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY OF WORKING PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN COULD BE ACHIEVED ONLY BY DEVELOPMENT OF BROTHERLY RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. CONSOLIDATION OF RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION WAS A MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY PRINCIPLE AND A FUNDAMENTAL FACTOR IN DEFENCE OF THE REVOLUTION. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE DEVELOPING IN ALL SPHERES AND, ON BEHALF OF PDPA, REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN, DOST EXPRESSED "PROFOUND AND SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE CPSU AND SOVIET GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FOR THE DRA".

3. KABUL NEW TIMES (KNT) CARRIED IN FULL TASS REPORT OF PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY KARMAL IN MOSCOW ON 20 DECEMBER. IT ALSO REPRODUCED 60TH ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE SENT BY KARMAL AND KESSHTMAND TO SOVIET LEADERS. RALLIES WERE REPORTEDLY HELD IN DIFFERENT PARTS

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OF THE COUNTRY TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY. A NUMBER IN THE CAPITAL WERE ADDRESSED BY MINISTERS WHO ALL STRESSED EXISTENCE OF FRIENDLY AND FRATERNAL RELATIONS BETWEEN DRA AND USSR. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS THAT ALL WORKERS IN AFGHANISTAN WOULD MARK THE ANNIVERSARY BY "VOLUNTARILY" WORKING FROM 8 AM TO 1230 PM ON FRIDAY 24 DECEMBER (NORMALLY A HOLIDAY).

4. EMPHASIS IN RECENT MINISTERIAL SPEECHES (INCLUDING DOST'S - PARA 2), AND IN ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE TO SOVIET LEADERS ON IMPORTANCE ATTACHED BY DRA TO RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION COULD BE INTENDED TO COUNTER SPECULATION (AND PERHAPS ALSO TO CONVEY MESSAGE TO MOSCOW) THAT, FOLLOWING DEATH OF BREZHNEV, THE REGIME EXPECTS NO CHANGE IN SOVIET POLICY TOWARDS AFGHANISTAN NOR IN LEVEL OF ITS SUPPORT FOR THE REGIME.

5. BONA ISSUED STATEMENT ON 23 DECEMBER ABOUT ATTEMPT OF US IMPERIALISM, TOGETHER WITH BRITISH, CHINESE AND PAKISTANI COLLABORATORS, TO DEFEAT AFGHAN REVOLUTION. IT CONTAINED "CONFESSIONS" OF A FORMER AFGHAN EMPLOYEE OF US EMBASSY IN KABUL WHO WAS SAID TO HAVE WORKED AS CIA SPY. IT SAID US EMBASSY IN KABUL ORGANISED INTELLIGENCE NETWORK IN AFGHANISTAN IN COLLABORATION WITH CRIMINAL BANDS OF GULBUDDIN HEKMATYAR. THERE WAS ALSO GROUP IN US EMBASSY WHO WERE MEMBERS OF JAMIAT ISLAMI GROUP WHO RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS AND MONEY FROM THE EMBASSY. IT NAMED THREE FORMER MEMBERS OF US EMBASSY WHO HAVE NOW LEFT KABUL. IT CLAIMED THAT EVERY FORTNIGHT, MEMBERS OF US EMBASSY BROUGHT BACK FROM PAKISTAN REVOLVERS, HAND GRENADES AND MINES WHICH WERE DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS OF JAMIAT ISLAMI GROUP WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO BLOW UP RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AND SHOPS IN DENSELY POPULATED CITY STREETS. STATEMENT SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO ACTIVITIES OF US EMBASSY "THE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTELLIGENCE NETWORK OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN KABUL HAD BEEN EXPOSED BY THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGIST PINDER-WILSON".

6. SARWAL YURISH, FORMERLY HEAD OF SOUTH EAST SECURITY ZONE, HAS BEEN APPOINTED DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER. IN STATEMENT TO BONA HE SAID "IT IS UP TO THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY PAKISTAN AND IRAN TO SHOW POLITICAL WISDOM, TO REALIZE THE TRUTH OF THE IRREVERSIBLE SAUR REVOLUTION, TO RESPOND TO THE PEACEFUL PROPOSALS OF THE DRA AND NOT TO ALLOW ANY LONGER THEIR COUNTRIES TO BE USED AS BASES OF IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION AGAINST REVOLUTIONARY AFGHANISTAN".

7. MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE (MND) HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT REGISTRATION FOR MILITARY SERVICE OF GRADUATES OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KABUL STARTED ON 14 DECEMBER. THERE HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND MND ABOUT MOBILISATION OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. EDUCATION MINISTRY WANTED EXEMPTION FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO WISHED TO GO ON TO UNIVERSITY WHILE MND INSISTED THAT THEY SHOULD FIRST DO THEIR MILITARY SERVICE. IT APPEARS THAT

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BATTLE HAS BEEN WON BY MND. EFFECT OF THIS ORDER WILL BE THAT THE ONLY FIRST YEAR STUDENTS AT KABUL UNIVERSITY NEXT YEAR (ACADEMIC YEAR STARTS IN FEBRUARY) WILL BE GIRLS OR MALE STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR MILITARY SERVICE.

8. MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRY, DANESH, VISITED THE KARKAR COAL MINES ON 21 DECEMBER WHICH HAD BEEN HIT BY AN EARTHQUAKE LAST WEEK. THE PREVIOUS DAY HE HAD VISITED KUNDUZ. MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND POLITBURO MEMBER, WATANJAR, ALSO PAID A ONE DAY VISIT TO GHAZNI ON 22 DECEMBER. HE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE ADDRESSED A LARGE RALLY IN GHAZNI CITY AND ALSO VISITED UNITS OF THE AFGHAN ARMY.

9. DRA HAVE SIGNED CONTRACT WITH BROWN BOVERI OF SWITZERLAND FOR SUPPLY OF TWO 54,000KW TURBINE THERMAL POWER GENERATORS AT COST OF US DOLLARS 22.39 MILLION. THE NEW UNITS WILL BE INSTALLED IN KABUL AND ARE DUE TO COME INTO OPERATION IN SEPTEMBER 1983 WHEN, ACCORDING TO BONA THE POWER NEEDS OF THE CAPITAL WILL BE LARGELY MET.

10. SOVIET TRADE DELEGATION HEADED BY VICE-PRESIDENT OF SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE DEPARTMENT WITH ASIAN COUNTRIES WAS IN KABUL LAST WEEK FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH AFGHAN MINISTRY OF COMMERCE ON EXCHANGE OF COMMODITIES DURING 1983. DISCUSSIONS ALSO TOOK PLACE ON LEVEL OF SOVIET CONSUMER GOODS TO BE DELIVERED TO AFGHANISTAN IN 1983 UNDER CONSUMER CREDIT AGREEMENT OR AS GRANT-IN-AID. CONTRACT HAS BEEN SIGNED FOR PURCHASE BY DRA FROM USSR DURING 1983 OF 450,000 TONS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. OF THIS, 7,300 TONES OF DIESEL OIL AND 5,000 TONS OF PETROL WILL BE FINANCED BY A CONSUMER LOAN. THE SOVIET UNION HAS REPORTEDLY REDUCTED THE CURRENT YEAR'S PRICE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS BY 4 PER CENT. BONA ALSO REPORTED RECENT SIGNING IN KABUL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN DRA AND USSR UNDER WHICH SOVIET UNION WILL PROVIDE 211,000 TONS OF GRAIN AND FLOUR TO DRA DURING 1983. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THIS WILL MEET ALL THE FOOD NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY. UNDER THE AGREEMENT 100,000 TONS OF WHEAT AND 11,000 TONES OF FLOUR WILL BE PROVIDED AS GRANT-IN-AID AND 100,000 TONS OF FLOUR UNDER THE BARTER TRADE AGREEMENT.

11. AGREEMENT BETWEEN MINISTRY OF HIGHER VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND SOVIET STATE COMMITTEE FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION ON DESIGN OF 3 NEW TECHNICAL SCHOOLS TO BE BUILT IN KABUL AND BALKH PROVINCES WAS SIGNED IN KABUL ON 25 DECEMBER.

SECURITY.

12. TODAY IS THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN BY SOVIET TROOPS. WE HAVE SO FAR RECEIVED NO REPORTS OF ANY MUJAHIDEEN OPERATIONS IN KABUL TO MARK THE OCCASION, BUT HIGH LEVEL OF SECURITY IS EVIDENT THROUGHOUT THE CAPITAL.

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13. WE HAVE RECEIVED VIA AN UNOFFICIAL AFGHAN SOURCE REPORT OF A MAJOR MUJAHIDEEN ATTACK ON BAGHRAM AIRFIELD LAST WEEK. SOURCE SAID THAT MUJAHIDEEN UNITS INFILTRATED THE AIRFIELD BY PASSING THROUGH THE PERIMETER MINEFIELDS WHICH HAD BEEN CLEARED FOR THEM BY PRE-ARRANGEMENTS WITH SOVIET TROOPS OF UZBEK ORIGIN WHO WERE ON GUARD DUTY AT BASE LAST WEEK. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, EXTENSIVE DAMAGE WAS INFLICTED ON PARKED AIRCRAFT AND AIRPORT BUILDINGS.

14. BONA REPORTS RECENT CRUSHING OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY BANDS IN HERAT AND SHINDAND AND CAPTURE OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS AMMUNITION AND DOCUMENTS PROVING CONNECTION BETWEEN THEM AND BANDITS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.

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15. PARA 4 NOT SUITABLE.

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