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YOUR TELNO 10 TO WASHINGTON: AFGHANISTAN: NEW YORK TIMES INTERVIEW

1. FOLLOWING ARE RELEVANT EXTRACTS FROM STEVE WEISMAN'S ARTICLE IN THE NEW YORK TIMES OF 13 JANUARY, HEADED "PAKISTANI LEADERS BACK COMPROMISE FOR AFGHAN PEACE" WHICH HAS ATTRACTED ATTENTION IN THE CONTEXT OF CERDOWEZ'S NEGOTIATIONS:

"IN SEPARATE INTERVIEWS ZIA AND JUNEJO SAID THAT ONLY A COMPROMISE ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING ALL THE WARRING FACTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN COULD GUARANTEE AN END TO THE FIGHTING. IT IS THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT MOSCOW CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN... CONDITIONS: A SAFE AND ORDERLY PULLOUT AND A GOVERNMENT LEFT BEHIND THAT IS NOT HOSTILE TO SOVIET INTERESTS. THEY SAID THAT THIS NECESSARILY TRANSLATES INTO AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT CONTAINING SOME MEMBERS OF THE PRO-MOSCOW PDPA - ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY THE AFGHAN LEADER NAJIBULLAH. BOTH PAKISTANI LEADERS ADDED THAT THEY HAD NO INTENTION OF PRESSING THE AFGHAN GUERRILLAS TO CHANGE THEIR VIEW RIGHT NOW, BUT SAID THAT A SHIFT WOULD HAVE TO COME IF MOSCOW MAKES GOOD ON ITS INTENTIONS OF A SPEEDY WITHDRAWAL. ZIA SAID PARTICIPATION IN (AN INTERIM) GOVERNMENT BY THE PDPA WAS "NOT MUCH OF A PRICE IN MY OPINION" TO ASSURE A RUSSIAN WITHDRAWAL. JUNEJO ASSERTED THAT "PAKISTAN CANNOT SAY THAT ONLY THE MUJAHIDEEN SHOULD GOVERN IN AFGHANISTAN". HIS MESSAGE TO THE AFGHAN REBELS WAS "YOU MUST ACCEPT REALITY". HE ADDED THAT "WE HAVE TO TALK TO THEM LOGICALLY" AND PERSUADE THEM TO COMPROMISE. BOTH ZIA AND JUNEJO NOTED THAT THE REBELS WERE ABLE TO CONTINUE FIGHTING AND THAT THEIR CURRENT POSITION SUGGESTED THAT THAT THEY WOULD DO SO RATHER THAN ACCEPT PARTICIPATION OF PRO-COMMUNIST ELEMENTS. "THIS IS THEIR STAND" SAID ZIA OF THE INSURGENTS. "BUT THIS IS NOT THE LAST DITCH STAND. THIS IS THE POSITION FROM WHICH THEY START. IN THE LONG RUN, THEY WILL REALISE THE NEED FOR PRAGMATISM. I AM CERTAIN THEY WILL NOT MISS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM".

COMMENT

2. ACCORDING TO THE US EMBASSY HERE ONE OF ZIA'S AND JUNEJO'S MAIN OBJECTIVES IN GIVING THESE INTERVIEWS WAS TO VENTILATE THE PROBLEM

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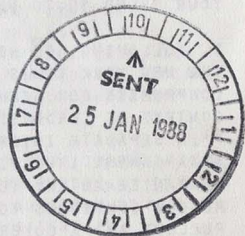
POSED BY SIGNATURE (AS NOW FORSEEN) OF A GENEVA ACCORD BY THE PRESENT REGIME IN KABUL AND TO USE IT TO DEMONSTRATE THE NEED FOR AN ACCEPTABLE GOVERNMENT IN KABUL WHICH WOULD IMPLIMENT THE AGREEMENT. THAT COULD NOT COME OUT EXPLICITLY GIVEN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE TEXTS. WEISMAN HAD NOT GRASPED THE POINT AND HIS REPORTAGE CONCENTRATED BALDLY ON THE PRESCRIPTION OFFERED TO THE RESISTANCE. NONETHELESS IT IS TRUE, AS THE ARTICLE STATES, THAT THE COMMENTS OF ZIA AND JUNEJO ARE THEIR FIRST UNEQUIVOCAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT THE RESISTANCE WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO COMPROMISE.

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