

CONFIDENTIAL

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MDADAN 2079

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FM WASHINGTON  
TO DESKBY 080900Z FCO  
TELNO 921  
OF 072140Z APRIL 88

INFO IMMEDIATE SINGAPORE, KABUL, MOSCOW, UKMIS GENEVA  
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SINGAPORE FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY

OUR TELNO 909: AFGHANISTAN

SUMMARY

1. ADMINISTRATION STILL WAITING FOR FINAL WORD FROM THE RUSSIANS ON SYMMETRY. BUT THEY NOW FORESEE NO SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO EARLY SIGNATURE AT GENEVA. US THINKING ON INITIAL PUBLIC RESPONSE CLOSE TO OUR OWN.

DETAIL

2. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON 7 APRIL QUOTE

WE HAVE NOTED WITH GREAT INTEREST THE TASS STATEMENT REPORTING ON THE RESULTS OF GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV'S MEETING WITH NAJIBULLAH IN TASHKENT. WE TOO HOPE THAT RAPID PROGRESS CAN BE MADE IN CONCLUDING THE GENEVA ACCORDS. OUR POSITION IS CLEAR. SUCH AN AGREEMENT MUST BE A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT THAT PROVIDES FOR THE PROMPT WITHDRAWAL OF ALL SOVIET TROOPS, AN INDEPENDENT NON-ALIGNED AFGHANISTAN, SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE AFGHAN PEOPLE AND THE RETURN OF THE REFUGEES IN SAFETY AND HONOUR.

WE CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO THE CONCEPT OF SYMMETRY AND BALANCED RECIPROCAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AS THE ONLY LOGICAL INTERPRETATION OF THE GENEVA INSTRUMENTS ON NON-INTERVENTION AND NON-INTERFERENCE.

HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON OUR PROPOSAL. UNTIL IT'S RECEIVED, WE MUST RESERVE JUDGMENT AND FURTHER COMMENT ON THE ISSUE. UNQUOTE

3. WE HAVE COMPARED NOTES WITH CONTACTS IN STATE ABOUT THE PUBLIC LINE THEY WOULD TAKE ONCE AGREEMENT AT GENEVA IS CONFIRMED (YOUR TELNOS 294 AND 295 TO ISLAMABAD). STATE SAY THAT THEIR DRAFT PRESS LINE IS STILL EVOLVING. BUT THEY APPEAR TO BE THINKING ALONG VERY MUCH THE SAME LINES AS OURSELVES. THEY TOO INTEND TO CONGRATULATE CORDOVEZ, THE PAKISTANIS AND THE RESISTANCE. THEY WILL ALSO MAKE SOME REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT US/SOVIET RELATIONS HAVE SINCE 1979 BEEN STRAINED BY THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN, AND THAT WITH COMPLETE SOVIET WITH-

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DRAWAL THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. THE INITIAL US PRESS LINE WILL ALSO NEED TO INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO THE CONCEPT OF SYMMETRY, IF ONLY FOR CONGRESSIONAL CONSUMPTION.

5. ON THE OTHER ISSUES RAISED IN YOUR TELNO 294 TO ISLAMABAD, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE WORKING HARD ON BOTH POLICY AND PUBLIC PRESENTATION ASPECTS OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS. IN PARTICULAR, STATE TELL US THAT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF WORK GOING ON IN THE AREA OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION AID, TO FLESH OUT THE POINTS IN THE PAPER HANDED TO US IN LONDON (YOUR TELNO 278 TO ISLAMABAD). THE US WILL BE PREPARED TO MOVE QUICKLY ON THIS ONCE THE AGREEMENT IS SIGNED. THEY ARE PLANNING TO APPOINT A WHITE HOUSE CO-ORDINATOR TO PULL TOGETHER THE THREADS IN THE US GOVERNMENT. THEY ALSO AGREE (YOUR PARA 7) THAT A UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA.

6. WE SHALL REPORT ON ANY FURTHER EVOLUTION OF AMERICAN THINKING IN ADVANCE OF PEREZ DE CUELLARS VISIT TO LONDON

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