

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 00990 191243Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
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AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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UNCLAS NEW DELHI 0990

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM IN XO UNGA
SUBJECT SOVIETS BRIEF INDIA ON INDIAN OCEAN TALKS

1. THE NEW DELHI PRESS REPORTS THAT SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN NEGOTIATOR L.I. MENDELVICH, VISITING INDIA IN CONNECTION WITH THE UPCOMING SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD), BRIEFED MEA SECRETARY VELLODI JANUARY 18 ON THE US-USSR INDIAN OCEAN TALKS. VELLODI WILL REPRESENT INDIA ON THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE DRAFTING THE AGENDA FOR THE SSOD. MENDELVICH, WHO ALSO MET EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER VAJPAYEE, WAS REPORTEDLY TOLD THAT THE GOI'S GOAL REMAINS THE ELIMINATION OF "EXTERNALZ" MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, A MESSAGE THAT VAJPAYEE ALSO PASSED TO A VISITING US CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION LED BY REP. LESTER WOLFF.

2. AN EDITORIAL IN THE JANUARY 19 "TIMES OF INDIA" NOTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE MENDELVICH'S VISIT THAT WHILE THE USSR WAS OPENLY SUPPORTING ETHIOPIA IN ITS CONFLICT WITH SOMALIA
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THE US WAS EQUALLY "INTERVENTIONIST" IN BUILDING UP DIEGO GARCIA, AND SUPPLYING ARMS AND PERSONNEL TO SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, WHICH WERE IN TURNSUPPLYING SOMALIA. THE EDITORIAL DOUBTED THAT THE US-USSR INDIAN OCEAN TALKS WOULD DEFUSE SUPERPOWER RIVALRY FOR DOMINANCE OF THE HORN OF AFRICA AND THE PERSIAN GULF. IT CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT WHILE THE USSR HAD SUFFERED REVERSES IN

EGYPT AND SOMALIA, "ETHIOPIA'S VICTORY AND PRESIDENT
SADAT'S FAILURE CAN TRANSFORM THE SCENE DRAMATICALLY
TO THE SOVIET UNION'S ADVANTAGE AND AMERICA'S DISCOMFITURE."
GOHEEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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