

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 OES-07 NRC-05 DOE-11
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-----084337 211012Z /13

R 201215Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8867
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1085

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, IN, XO, UNGA
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN NEGOTIATOR MENDELVICH

REF: NEW DELHI 990

1. ACCORDING TO S. SHAHABUDDIN, MEA JOINT SECRETARY RESPONSIBLE FOR INDIAN OCEAN MATTERS, VISITING SOVIET NEGOTIATOR L.I. MENDELEVICH GAVE MEA A TWO HOUR DETAILED BRIEFING ON US-SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN TALKS. SHAHABUDDIN TOLD POL COUNSELOR THAT MENDELEVICH'S APPROACH HAD BEEN ALTOGETHER NON-CONTENTIOUS, AND THAT HE HAD SPOKEN HIGHLY OF DIRECTOR WARNKE BOTH AS A PERSON AND AS A SKILLED AND EXPERIENCED NEGOTIATOR. SHAHABUDDIN REPORTED THAT MENDELEVICH HAD EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT DESPITE PRESENT DIFFERENCES A FORCE STABILIZATION AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED BY MID-1978.

2. SHAHABUDDIN NOTED THAT THE INDIANS WERE PLEASED THAT
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THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE SOVIET PRESENTATION WHICH CONFLICTED WITH OR CONTRADICTED WITH THE BRIEFINGS THEY HAVE RECEIVED FROM US SIDE. HE STATED THAT MENDELEVICH CHARACTERIZED THE EVENTUAL SOV GOAL AS THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FOREIGN BASES AND OF FACILITIES WHICH COULD BE USED FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN MILITARY AND NAVAL FORCES. MENDELEVICH HAD ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE

WOULD "ALWAYS" BE A FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE AREA
AT ANY GIVEN TIME.

3. IN SHAHABUDDIN'S ACCOUNT, THE MAIN POINTS OF DIS-
AGREEMENT WITH THE US TO WHICH MENDELEVICH CALLED ATTENTION
WERE THE ISSUES OF STRATEGICWEAPONS AND OF COMMITMENT IN
THE STABILIZATION AGREEMENT TO FUTURE REDUCTION. HE DID
NOT GET INTO THE QUESTION OF ALLIED FORCES OR OF DEFINITION
OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE SOVIET
POSITION ON DIEGO GARCIA BUT, ACCORDING TO SHAHABUDDIN, WAS
"SOPHISTICATED ENOUGH" NOT TO SPEAK OF DIEGO AS A
"THREAT" TO THE LITTORAL STATES.

4. MENDELEVICH DISCUSSED THE CHANGE IN THE SOVIET VOTE
ON THE IOZP IN TERMS OF MORE ACCEPTABLE WORDING OF THIS
YEAR'S RESOLUTION. SHAHABUDDIN RECOLLECTED THAT THE
SOVIETS HAD TOLD THE INDIANS THAT THE EARLIER RESOLUTION
HAD BEEN TOO CRITICAL OF BOTH SUPERPOWERS. MENDELEVICH
MADE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRESENT TALKS WERE
NOT TAKING PLACE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE IOZP. THE INDIANS, FOR
THEIR PART, TOLD HIM THAT THEY WELCOMED THE TALKS AND WOULD
WANT THEM TO BE FOLLOWED BY FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON
REDUCTION. THEY SAID THAT US-SOVIET AGREEMENT SHOULD ENABLE
"YOU BOTH" TO COOPERATE MORE FULLY WITH THE LITTORAL STATES
IN IMPLEMENTING THE IOZP RESOLUTION.

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5. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO OTHER ADDRESSEES AS
APPROPRIATE.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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