

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SES-02 SAA-01  
EB-08 DLOS-09 OES-09 IO-14 AF-10 /153 W  
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R 240800Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 183  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
/AMEMBASSY DACCA 737  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
USLO PAKING  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 7666

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, AF, IN  
SUBJECT: VAJPAYEE VISIT CONCLUDES WITH RELATIVELY MODERATE  
COMMUNIQUE

REF: KABUL 7591

1. SUMMARY: THE THREE-DAY VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN BY INDIAN  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE ILLUSTRATED  
THE PROMINENT ROLE INDIA PLAYS THUS FAR IN THIS COUNTRY'S  
FOREIGN POLICY, AND ALSO RESULTED IN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE THAT  
WAS GENERALLY DEVOID OF RADICAL AFGHAN POSITIONS. END OF  
SUMMARY.

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2. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF VAJPAYEE'S  
THREE-DAY (SEPTEMBER 18-20) VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN (TEXT  
BEING SENT SEPTTEL) WAS, FROM THE AFGHAN POINT OF VIEW,  
MUCH MORE MODERATE ON MOST ISSUES THAN HAD BEEN REFLECTED IN  
THE BANQUET SPEECH GIVEN BY AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER  
HAFIZULLAH AMIN ON SEPTEMBER 19 (REFTTEL) OR HIS OTHER RECENT  
MOSCOW-HAVANA LINE FOREIGN POLICY SPEECHES. IN GENERAL,

THE LINE TAKEN IN THE COMMUNIQUE REPRESENTS A MORE STANDARD NONALIGNED STANCE ON MOST QUESTIONS, AND SUGGESTS THAT THE INDIANS WERE ABLE TO EXERCISE A MODERATING INFLUENCE DURING THE DRAFTING OF THE DOCUMENT.

3. FOR THEIR PART, THE AFGHANS SHOULD BE SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF VAJPAYEE'S STAY, NOT LEAST OF ALL BECAUSE THE INDIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER PROMISED INDIAN ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIME'S FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING DRAFTED, ALTHOUGH NO DOLLAR FIGURES WERE REVEALED. MOREOVER, THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT THE BILATERAL MEETINGS REVEALED AN "IDENTITY OF VIEWS ON VARIOUS IMPORTANT SUBJECTS," AND THEY AGREED TO EXPLORE MEANS TO EXPAND THEIR BILATERAL COOPERATION. REFERENCES TO PUSHTUNISTAN, PER SE, HOWEVER, WERE MISSING FROM THE COMMUNIQUE, ALTHOUGH THE ASSERTION THAT "ALL POLITICAL DIFFERENCES AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGIONS SHOULD BE SETTLED THROUGH PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING," AND BOTH SIDES PROMISED TO "IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS." THE AFGHANS DID OBTAIN INDIAN SUPPORT FOR "IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION" OF "SPECIAL MEASURES ADOPTED IN FAVOR OF LAND-LOCKED AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES," AN IMPORTANT AFGHAN PLANK IN THIS COUNTRY'S LAW OF THE SEA POLICY. ON THE NON-CONFIDENTIAL

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ALIGNED FRONT, BOTH SIDES "EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER THE CONTINUING VALIDITY OF NONALIGNMENT WHICH HAD MADE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMON STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY OF NATIONS". THE AFGHANS APPARENTLY COULD NOT SHOEHORN SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO DIEGO GARCIA (A FAVORITE TARGET RECENTLY) INTO THE COMMUNIQUE'S INDIAN OCEAN LANGUAGE, ALTHOUGH THIS SECTION DID CALL FOR AN INDIAN OCEAN "ZONE OF PEACE" FREE FROM "GREAT POWER RIVALRIES" AS WELL AS "MILITARY BASES CONCEIVED IN THE CONTEXT OF SUCH RIVALRIES." THE MIDDLE EAST FORMULATION ALSO OMITTED REFERENCE TO A RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE OR THE PLO, AND TENDED TO RESTATE STANDARD LANGUAGE RE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND SUPPORT FOR THE "STRUGGLE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FOR THE RESTORATION OF THEIR LEGITIMATE AND INALIENABLE RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN NATIONAL STATE."

4. ATMOSPHERICS SURROUNDING THE VISIT WERE IMPRESSIVE. VAJPAYEE MET ONCE WITH NOOR MOHAMMED TARAKI, PRESIDENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, AND HAD ONE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED FORMAL SESSION WITH AMIN, AS WELL AS

NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS ISSUES INFORMALLY WITH THE AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER. VIRTUALLY ALL AVAILABLE AFGHAN CABINET MEMBERS TURNED OUT FOR THE SEPTEMBER 19 FORMAL BANQUET, AND AMIN AND VAJPAYEE GAVE PRESS CONFERENCES FOR THE OTHER COUNTRIES' CORRESPONDENTS. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS HAS NOT REVEALED WHAT AMIN SAID AT HIS SESSION, BUT REPEATED THAT VAJPAYEE REITERATED THAT INDIA WILL INCREASE ITS ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN. VAJPAYEE DODGED A QUESTION (PROBABLY PLANTED) ABOUT DIEGO GARCIA, AND REMARKED MERELY THAT THE USSR AND THE U.S. SHOULD RENEW TALKS REGARDING THE INDIAN OCEAN. HE REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED BY REPEATING HIS SUPPORT FOR THE "CONSOLIDATION OF THE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT."  
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5. COMMENT: ON THE WHOLE, THE VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE

HAD SOME POSITIVE RESULTS FOR BOTH SIDES. THE PROTOCOL ASPECTS REFLECTED THE IMPORTANT POSITION INDIA HAS OCCUPIED IN THIS REGIME'S FOREIGN POLICY SINCE THE APRIL REVOLUTION, AND THE TEMPERED COMMUNIQUE (IN CONTRAST TO AMIN'S RADICAL VIEWS EXPRESSED EARLIER IN THE VISIT) SUGGEST A MODERATING AND INFLUENTIAL INDIAN HAND. (THE INDIANS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEIR STRATEGY IS TO ENCOURAGE THE AFGHANS TO BE MODERATE IN A FASHION WHICH DOES NOT MAKE THEM FEEL LIKE THEY ARE BEING PUSHED.) THE PROMISED INCREASE IN DINAIAN ASSISTANCE IS ALSO PROBABLY WELCOME HERE, ESPECIALLY IF THE INCREASINGLY STRIDENT POSITIONS STRUCK BY THIS REGIME CAUSE SOME WESTERN OR CONSERVATIVE ARAB ASSISTANCE DONORS TO TIGHTEN THEIR PURSE STRINGS. END OF COMMENT

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6. THE FULL TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE IS BEING TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY BY AIRGRAM.  
DUBS

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VAJPAYEE VISIT CONCLUDES WITH RELATIVELY MODERATE COMMUNIQUE  
**TAGS:** PEPR, AF, IN, (VAJPAYEE, ATAL BIHARI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014