

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 IO-13 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
AGRE-00 ACDA-12 AF-10 HA-05 /129 W  
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R 291250Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 530  
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AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL MADRAS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USLO PEKING  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 4871

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, MARR, MPOL, IN  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN POLICY SECTION OF DEFENSE MINISTRY  
ANNUAL REPORT (1977-78)

REF: 77 DELHI 9123

SUMMARY. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR  
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1976-77, WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT MARCH 27,  
REFLECTS THE GOI'S EMPHASIS IN THE PAST YEAR OF IMPROVING  
RELATIONS BILATEALLY WITH ALL COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY  
NEIGHBORING STATES, AND CONSEQUENTLY IS LESS NEGATIVE  
THAN LAST YEAR'S REPORT (REFTEL). WHILE POINTING TO  
IMPROVEMENTS IN RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH  
AND CHINA, HOWEVER, THE BRIEF INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER

ON "NATIONAL SECURITY IN PERSPECTIVE" CONCLUDES  
"DESPITE THESE, THERE IS LITTLE CHANGE IN OUR SECURITY  
ENVIRONMENT AS THE SOURCES OF TENSION AND CAUSES OF  
CONFLICTS HAVE NOT BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. THE  
THREAT TO OUR SECURITY CONTINUES..." DURING  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE DEFENSE BUDGET MARCH 27,  
LITTLE ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS.  
DEFENSE MINISTER JAGJIVAN RAM REITERATED THE GOOD  
NEIGHBOR POLICY. WE ARE AWAITING ISSUANCE IN APRIL OF  
THE MEA ANNUAL REPORT, WHICH WE ANTICIPATE WILL ONCE  
AGAIN BE MORE MODERATE THAN THE DEFENCE MINISTRY'S  
ASSESSMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. USSR AND USA: THE MOD'S ANNUAL REPORT BEGINS WITH  
A STATEMENT OF THE JANATA GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF  
BENEFICIAL BILATERALISM WITH ALL COUNTRIES. IT STATES  
THAT RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAVE "CONTINUED TO  
BE CLOSE" AND THAT INDIA HAS "ENTERED A NEW PHASE OF  
GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION" IN RELATIONS  
WITH THE UNITED STATES. IT ALSO NOTES THAT RELATIONS  
"HAVE GROWN IN SPIRIT AND CONTENT" WITH BHUTAN, NEPAL,  
BURMA, SRI LANKA, AFGHANISTAN AND BANGLADESH. (THESE  
ARE ALL NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WITH WHOM THERE HAVE  
BEEN HIGH-LEVEL VISITS; ONLY PAKISTAN IS OMITTED.)

2. CHINA: INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH CHINA "HAVE CONTINUED  
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TO SHOW A DEGREE OF IMPROVEMENT THROUGH OUR BASIC  
DIFFERENCES ON THE BORDER QUESTION REMAIN UNRESOLVED."  
THE REPORT NOTES THAT THERE HAS BEEN "NO APPRECIABLE  
CHANGE" IN THE OVERALL STRENGTH OF CHINESE ARMED  
FORCES IN TIBET, BUT ADDS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN "NOTABLE  
IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR LOGISTICAL CAPABILITIES."

3. PAKISTAN: THE REPORT STATES THAT INDIA HAS PURSUED  
NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS TO ENSURE DURABLE PEACE AND  
TO PROMOTE BENEFICIAL BILATERAL COOPERATION AND ADDS  
THAT THE SCARCE MATERIAL RESOURCES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES  
SHOULD BE USED FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT "INSTEAD OF  
BEING SPENT ON AN UNPRODUCTIVE ARMS RACE. THE MOD  
STATES THAT PAKISTAN HAS "PROCURED MILITARY HARDWARE  
DURING THE YEAR FROM VARIOUS SOURCES" AND COMMENTS  
THAT IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT "WE HAVE ALREADY NOTED...  
THAT PAKISTAN HAD MADE IMPRESSIVE ADDITIONS TO THE  
PRE-1971 LEVEL OF STRENGTH IN HER ARMED FORCES BOTH  
QUANTITATIVELY AND QUALITATIVELY." THE REPORT CONTINUES:  
"PAKISTAN IS STILL LOOKING FOR MORE SOPHISTICATED ARMS.  
THIS, WE FEEL, IS NOT IN CONSONANCE WITH THE  
PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO

COUNTRIES AND HENCE CANNOT BUT BE A MATTER OF CONCERN TO US." THE REPORT SAYS THAT EXCEPT FOR A FEW LOCAL INCIDENTS OF FIRING BY PAKISTANI TROOPS, CIVILIAN INTRUSIONS ACROSS THE LINE OF CONTROL AND "VIOLATIONS OF OUR AIR SPACE", THE BORDER SITUATION REMAINED PEACEFUL.

4. BANGLADESH: IN CONTRAST TO THE SHARPLY NEGATIVE TONE OF LAST YEAR'S REMARKS, THE MOD THIS YEAR LAUDS THE "PERCEPTIBLE IMPROVEMENT" IN THE CLIMATE OF RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH AND SAYS THAT INDIA IS "VITALLY INTERESTED IN A STRONG AND PROSPEROUS BANGLADESH." THE FARAKKA AGREEMENT IS CALLED A "VERY WELCOME DEVELOPMENT" AND ONE WHICH "VINDICATES OUR FAITH" THAT ALL PROBLEMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BETWEEN STATES CAN BE RESOLVED IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL COOPERATION. PRESIDENT ZIA'S VISIT TO INDIA WAS CALLED A "FURTHER STEP" IN PROMOTING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

5. INDIAN OCEAN: THE REPORT RESTATES THE GOI'S "CONSISTENT" OPPOSITION TO THE "EXTENTION OF GREAT POWER RIVALRY TO OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD AND IN PARTICULAR TO THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION. SUCH RIVALRIES AND "FOREIGN MILITARY BASES" ARE SEEN AS POSING A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE LITTORAL AND HINTERLAND STATES. THE MOD DOES NOT REPEAT LAST YEAR'S REFERENCE TO DIEGO GARCIA NOR ITS CHARACTERIZATION OF THE ISSUE AS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"SERIOUS CONCERN TO INDIA." THE REPORT ENDORSES THE IOZP AND WELCOMES MOVES TOWARD THE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN, SINCERELY HOPING THAT THE SOVIET-AMERICAN TALKS "WOULD LEAD TO AN EARLY ELIMINATION OF GREAT POWER RIVALRY IN THE REGION." HOWEVER, IT COMPLAINS THAT THE PROPOSAL "TO ONLY LIMIT ARMS DEVELOPMENT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN... FALLS FAR SHORT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PEACE IN THE REGION." IT IS THE MOD'S "CONSIDERED VIEW" THAT THE REGION SHOULD BE COMPLETELY FREE OF BIG POWER RIVALRY AND FOREIGN MILITARY BASES.

6. DISARMAMENT: THE REPORT RESTATES THE GOI'S SUPPORT FOR GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT, AND ITS OPPOSITION TO NOT ONLY THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUT ALSO THE "ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT" OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS THEMSELVES. THE REPORT DEPLORES THE WASTEFUL EXPENDITURES OF THE ARMS RACE AND WELCOMES "ALL MOVES" THAT MAY LEAD TO "MEANINGFUL EAST-WEST ARMS CONTROL BOTH IN THE STRATEGIC AND IN THE CONVENTIONAL MILITARY SPHERES."

7. SOUTHERN AFRICA: THE REPORT REITERATES INDIAN SUPPORT FOR THE FREEDOM STRUGGLES IN NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE AND CONDEMNS APARTHEID.

8. DURING THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE MARCH 27, DFENSE MINISTER JAGJIVAN RAM REITERATED THE JANATA GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY AND SAID THAT INDIA HAD EXTENDED THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TO PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH AND

CHINA AND WAS GRATIFIED THAT THERE WERE SIGNS OF  
RESPONSE. ABOUT CHINA, HE SAID THAT RELATIONS MUST BE  
"FREE FROM TENSIONS" AND ONCE THEY WERE THERE  
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WOULD BE SEVERAL WAYS OF ESTABLISHING FRIENDLY TIES.  
RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ABOUT INDIA'S PREVIOUS OFFER  
OF A "NO-WAR PACT" WITH PAKISTAN, RAM SAID THAT IF  
RELATIONS WERE NORMALIZED THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR  
SUCH A PACT.  
GOHEEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 29 mar 1978  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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