

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 07591 210616Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
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O R 210458Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 139
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7591

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, AF, IN
SUBJECT: INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HEARS RADICAL AFGHAN VIEWS
AT KABUL

1. SUMMARY: THE SPEECH GIVEN BY AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER
HAFIZULLAH AMIN AT HIS SEPTEMBER 19 DINNER FOR VISITING
INDIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ATAL BERNHARI VAJPAYEE
REFLECTED THE INCREASINGLY RADICAL POSITIONS BEING TAKEN
BY THE AFGHAN REGIME ON MANY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.
VAJPAYEE'S RESPONSE APPEARED TO BE DESIGNED TO SOLICIT A
MORE MODERATE AFGHAN APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN
ORDER TO AVOID DISRUPTING REGIONAL STABILITY. END OF SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 KABUL 07591 210616Z

2. AMIN OPENED HIS ADDRESS WITH GENERAL PRAISE OF THE
STATE OF AFGHAN-INDIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS, POINTING
OUT IN PARTICULAR INDIA'S QUICK RECOGNITION OF THE NEW
REVOLUTIONARY REGIME AS PROOF OF THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE REPEATED THAT THE REGIME'S
DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES ARE DETERMINED BY THE
"BASIC GUIDELINES" CONTAINED IN PRESIDENT NOOR MOHAMMAD

TARAKI'S MAY 9 SPEECH. AMIN REITERATED HIS NOW FAMILIAR LINE THAT AFGHANISTAN FOLLOWS AN "ACTIVE AND POSITIVE NONALIGNED" POLICY IN PURSUIT OF "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" FOR ALL. HE STRESSED THAT RELATIONS WITH "OUR GREAT NORTHERN NEIGHBOR HAVE HISTORICAL ROOTS," WHOSE "BRANCHES AND ROOTS ARE BEING CONSOLIDATED." AMIN WENT ON TO PRAISE ALSO THE STATUS OF AFGHANISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH INDIA, IRAN, AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA -- IN THAT ORDER.

3. TURNING TO PAKISTAN, AMIN SAID THAT AFGHANISTAN SEEKS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE "NATIONAL ISSUE OF THE PUSHTUN AND BALUCH PEOPLES IN THE LIGHT OF THE HISTORICAL BACK-
TROUND THROUGH FRIENDLY AND PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS." HE ADDED THAT THE AFGHANS HOPE TO "REALIZE THIS DESIRE" THROUGH "UNDERSTANDING, GOODWILL, AND NEGOTIATIONS" WITH THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT "IN THE LIGHT OF THE HISTORY OF THE REGION". (COMMENT: IT IS PRECISELY THIS TYPE OF LANGUAGE, I.E., REFERENCES TO "NATIONAL ISSUE" AND "HISTORICAL BACKGROUND," THAT LOCAL PAKISTANI DIPLOMATS FIND SO DISTURBING, BECAUSE IT APPEARS TO BE IRREDENTIST IN NATURE.)

4. AMIN DECLARED THAT AFGHANISTAN, "TOGETHER WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST AND PEACE-LOVING COUNTRIES," SEEKS COMPLETE DISARMAMENT, INTERNATIONAL PEACE, AND A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT (ALONG LINES IDENTICAL WITH THOSE OF MOSCOW, INCLUDING A CALL FOR A RECON-
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PAGE 03 KABUL 07591 210616Z

VENED GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH FULL PLO PARTICIPATION). AMIN ALSO CALLED FOR THE ELIMINATION OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES, ESPECIALLY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN (HE SPECIFICALLY CITED DIEGO GARCIA), AND CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A "ZONE OF PEACE". HE REPEATED EARLIER CALLS FOR THE REUNIFICATION OF KOREA, AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM "THE SOUTHERN PART OF KOREA". HE TOOK A SWIPE AT CHILE (ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION PINOCHET BY NAME), AND CALLED FOR "ENSURING HUMAN RIGHTS" AROUND THE WORLD.

5. VAJPAYEE'S REMARKS WERE MUCH MORE LOW-KEY, AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR GENUINE NONALIGNMENT, AND THE REQUIREMENT FOR MUTUAL TRUST IN RELATIONS AMONG COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WERE NO BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND INDIA, AND ASSERTED THAT THIS MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP WILL CONTINUE "DESPITE CHANGES OF INDIVIDUALS AND GOVERNMENTS." HE NOTED THAT EACH COUNTRY IS FREE TO DETERMINE ITS OWN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL SYSTEM, AND CONCLUDED THAT NO ONE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROVOKE TENSIONS WITHIN THE REGION.

6. COMMENT: AMIN'S POSITIONS REFLECT THE INCREASINGLY
RADICAL STANCE OF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT ON INTERNATIONAL
ISSUES, WHILE VAJPAYEE'S ADDRESS APPEARS TO REPRESENT
AN INDIAN EFFORT TO CONVINCE THE AFGHANS THAT A MORE
MODERATE APPROACH AND A "GENUINE NONALIGNMENT" POLICY
WOULD BETTER SERVE REGIONAL AS WELL AS AFGHAN INTERESTS.
WHETHER VAJPAYEE'S DOWNBEAT TACTICS WILL ACTUALLY HAVE
A MODERATING INFLUENCE HERE REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT
THE AFGHAN POSITIONS SET FORTH BY AMIN CLEARLY ILLUSTRATE
THE GROWING CONGRUITY OF AFGHAN AND SOVIET STANCES
TOWARD MANY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

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