

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-07 IO-14 ISO-00 SOE-02
AF-10 ARA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NASA-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
DOE-15 SAS-02 CEQ-01 OES-09 SS-15 ICA-11 NRC-05
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R 230413Z DEC 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1457
INFO USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC
CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 10032

CINCPAC AND CINCEUR FOR POLAD

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 4)

E.O. 12065: GDS 12/20/78 (FLATIN, BRUCE A.) OR-P
TAGS: PARM, UNGA, PLOS, AF, XO
SUBJ: AFGHAN VIEWS ON NEGATIVE SECURITY ASSURANCES AND
RELATED TOPICS

REF: STATE 311471 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AN AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS
REAFFIRMED AFGHAN SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT OF A NUCLEAR
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WEAPONS FREE ZONE FOR SOUTH ASIA. HE ALSO EXPLAINED AFGHAN-
ISTAN'S STRONG INTEREST IN A ZONE OF PEACE FOR THE INDIAN
OCEAN, WHICH WOULD INVOLVE THE DISMANTLEMENT OF ALL MILITARY
BASES IN THAT REGION. END OF SUMMARY.

2. ON DECEMBER 18, AN EMBASSY OFFICER PRESENTED TO ABDUL
MAJID MANGAL, ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND UN AFFAIRS DIVISION -- AND A KEY KHALQI OFFICIAL IN THAT MINISTRY, THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE (REFTEL) TO HIS EARLIER QUESTIONS ON NEGATIVE SECURITY ASSURANCES (KABUL 8954). MANGAL WAS VERY GRATIFIED TO RECEIVE THE RESPONSE.

3. IN ANSWER TO THE EMBASSY OFFICER'S QUESTION RE PARAGRAPH 5 OF REFTEL, MANGAL STATED THAT AFGHANISTAN STILL STRONGLY SUPPORTS, IN PRINCIPLE, THE CONCEPT OF A NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE (NWFZ) FOR SOUTH ASIA. THE REASON WHY AFGHANISTAN HAD DECIDED TO ABSTAIN ON THIS YEAR'S NWFZ RESOLUTION IN THE UNGA WAS THAT IT HAD BEEN INTRODUCED IN AN UNACCEPTABLY POLITICIZED FORM BY PAKISTAN. INDIA HAD VOTED AGAINST IT.

4. WITH REFERENCE TO THE FOURTH TALKING POINT OF PARAGRAPH 4, MANGAL COMMENTED THAT TO PROHIBIT A STATE PARTICIPATING IN A NWFZ ARRANGEMENT FROM "DEVELOPING ANY MODERN DEVICE, FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE," WOULD BE IN CONTRAVENTION TO ARTICLE 4 OF THE NONPROLIFERATION TREATY, WHICH PERMITS PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.

5. COMMENTING ON TALKING POINT 5 OF PARAGRAPH 4, MANGAL OBSERVED THAT THE AFGHAN POSITION WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH THOSE OF THE US AND THE USSR, I.E., NWFZ ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD NOT HINDER THE PRINCIPLE OF FREE NAVIGATION ON THE HIGH SEAS
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-- INCLUDING PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS. FROM THE AFGHAN POINT OF VIEW, SAID MANGAL, THE RIGHTS OF MARITIME STATES, SUCH AS THOSE BORDERING ON STRAITS, SHOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF IN THE LAW-OF-THE-SEA NEGOTIATIONS AS PART OF A "FULL PACKAGE" AGREEMENT. THIS WOULD ENSURE "PRIOR NOTIFICATION" FOR STRAITS STATES -- AND THE RIGHT OF FREE PASSAGE FOR SHIPPING STATES. IN THIS CONNECTION, MANGAL ADVISED THE EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE NEW AFGHAN KHALQI REGIME WILL VIGOROUSLY PURSUE ITS RIGHTS AT THE NEXT LAW-OF-THE-SEA SESSIONS -- JOINING WITH FIFTY-ONE OTHER LANDLOCKED AND "GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED" STATES (THE LATTER GROUP INCLUDES COUNTRIES WITH SMALL, UNUSABLE COASTLINES OR FEW OFFSHORE RESOURCES). HE OBSERVED THAT AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE "FULL PACKAGE" IS THE RIGHT OF ALL STATES TO SHARE IN THE RESOURCES OF THE SEA.

6. PASSING TO A RELATED TOPIC, AFGHANISTAN'S ENDORSEMENT OF A ZONE OF PEACE FOR THE INDIAN OCEAN, MANGAL OBSERVED THAT FOREIGN OBSERVERS HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD THE CURRENT AFGHAN POSITION CONCERNING DIEGO GARCIA. ACCORDING TO MANGAL, THE DRA IS NOT CALLING SOLELY FOR THE DISMANTLING OF THAT PARTICULAR BASE. HE CLAIMED THAT AFGHANISTAN WOULD LIKE TO SEE

THE ELIMINATION OF ALL MILITARY BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION, "SUCH AS DIEGO GARCIA." MANGAL ADDED THAT HIS VIEW APPLIED TO ALL OTHER BASES, WHETHER THEY BE SOVIET, FRENCH, OR WHATEVER. THE EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED WHY THIS POSITION HAD NOT BEEN EXPLAINED MORE PRECISELY IN THE AFGHAN MEDIA, WHICH INVARIABLY SINGLED OUT DIEGO GARCIA FOR CRITICISM (HE DID NOT ADD THAT THE MEDIA WERE QUOTING AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN). MANGAL ADVISED THAT HIS FORMULATION BE REGARDED AS THE OFFICIAL AFGHAN POSITION.

7. COMMENT: MANGAL, REGARDED BY LOCAL DIPLOMATS AS A RISING STAR IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, APPEARS TO FEEL INCREASINGLY CONFIDENT IN HIS EXPANDED POLITICAL ROLE, WHICH INCLUDES, INTER ALIA, FREQUENT PUSHTU-ENGLISH INTERPRETER
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SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT TARAHI (WHOM, INCIDENTALLY, HE RECENTLY ACCOMPANIED TO MOSCOW). MANGAL GOES OUT OF HIS WAY TO STRESS AFGHANISTAN'S APPRECIATION FOR AMERICA'S FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT. WE HAVE NO WAY OF DETERMINING AT THIS TIME WHETHER MANGAL'S SOFTENED FORMULATION OF THE AFGHAN POSITION ON DIEGO GARCIA REPRESENTS A POST-MOSCOW VISIT POLICY CHANGE ON THE PART OF HIS GOVERNMENT. WE WILL HAVE TO SEE HOW THIS TOPIC IS HANDLED IN THE NEXT FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH BY PRESIDENT TARAHI OR FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN. DUBS

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