

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 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 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08
DOE-11 SOE-02 /116 W

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P R 031642Z JAN 78 ZFF-4 RUSBAY RUSBTA
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6248
INFO AMEMBASSY BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0060

CINCPAC HOLD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: IN, UR, US, XO
SUBJECT: SOVIET REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S INDIA VISIT

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. INITIAL SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO
INDIA VIRTUALLY LIMITED TO BRIEF TASS STORY DATED DELHI,
JAN. 2, AND CARRIED IN PRAVDA JAN 3. ARTICLE BEGINS BY
OBSERVING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT HAS PROVOKED
INDIAN PUBLIC AND PRESS CRITICISM AS WELL AS DEMONSTRATIONS
IN DIA. IT STATES INDIAN PRESS COMMENTARY ON
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THE VISIT "UNANIMOUSLY CONDEMNED PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT
STATEMENT THAT HE INTENDS TO 'SLIGHTLY CORRECT'
(PODKORREKTIROVAT') SOME ASPECTS OF INDIAN FOREIGN
POLICY." TASS ARTICLE ALSO QUOTES ANTI-U.S. NEWS-
PAPERS BLITZ AND PATRIOT CRITICISM OF DIEGO GARCIA,
U.S. "POLICY" OF APPLYING PRESSURE ON INDIA, AND U.S.
INTENTION TO BEGIN PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB

AND CRUISE MISSILE.

END UNCLASSIFIED, BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

2. DURING JAN 3 DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF AT SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY, DEPUTY CHIEF, SOUTH ASIA DEPARTMENT AND FORMER SOVIET MINISTER COUNSELOR, SOVIET EMBASSY NEW DELHI, V.K. BOLDYREV, REPEATEDLY INQUIRED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR INDO-U.S. RELATIONS. BOLDYREV NOTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S DELHI VISIT AND STATED THAT MOSCOW HAS NO PROBLEMS WITH IMPROVING INDO-U.S. RELATIONS AS LONG AS THEY ARE NOT DIRECTED AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES. EMBOFF SAID SUCH A POSITIVE SOVIET POSTURE TOWARD INDO-U.S. RELATIONS WAS NOT REFLECTED IN JAN 3 PRAVDA ARTICLE, WHICH WAS ALMOST UNIFORMLY NEGATIVE. BOLDYREV REPONDED BY FIRST PLAYING DOWN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ARTICLE, WHICH HE CLAIMED WAS BASED ON INDIAN NEWSPAPER COMMENTARY AND WAS NOT THEREFORE A PRESENTATION OF SOVIET VIEWS. HE THEN COMMENTED THAT THE USSR, LIKE INDIA, WOULD OPPOSE ASPECTS OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY SUCH AS DIEGO GARCIA AND ANY ATTEMPTS "TO APPLY MILITARY AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE" ON INDIA.

3. COMMENT: BOLDYREV'S EAGERNESS TO DISCUSS THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO INDIA AND INDO-U.S. RELATIONS
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ILLUSTRATES SOVIET CONCERN OVER MUTUAL INDIAN AND U.S. INTENTIONS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. HIS RITUAL STATEMENT THAT MOSCOW HAS NOTHING AGAINST AN IMPROVEMENT IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS CONTRASTS WITH THE CRITICAL WAY THE SOVIET PRESS IS CHOOSING TO REPORT THE VISIT.
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