

## INCOMING TELEGRAM

## Department of State

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Date of Action *2/20*  
February 15, 19566:03 a.m.  
Action Office Symbol *502*Name of Officer *WJH*Direction to RM/R *10*

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Action

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FROM: Karachi

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1551, February 15, 1 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 1551; REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 145, MOSCOW 145, TEHRAN 45, BAGHDAD 48, ANKARA 75, NEW DELHI 210

Russian trade talks, according Foreign Secretary Baig and joint Foreign Secretary west, Hassan, are purely routine continuation of discussions carried on intermittently since 1949 and should give us no cause for concern as indicative any change GOP policy. Same sources assert that Bulganin interview of February 8 with UPP correspondent was first high level interview ever obtained by Pakistan correspondent with Soviets, and instigated here by Soviet Charge Voekov who worked over list questions with UPP correspondent. Both Foreign Office informants are in Embassy opinion pro-West and pro-American, and are representative of what is best in Pakistan civil service. However, they are not always in full confidence of Ministers and others who mould trends of Pakistan opinion.

Embassy has in many recent reports expressed concern over domestic campaigns critical Pakistan foreign policy, US aid programs and US foreign policy which have gone on for months in press, public speeches and discussions political conventions. All portend foreign policy trend toward greater "independence" away from reputation of being tied to US apron strings and certainly represent endeavor increase bargaining power.

Nevertheless Embassy ~~tends~~ believe Pakistan announcement hold trade talks with Soviets merely part this "limited war nerves" against US and west, designed keep up pressure on Pakistan aimed for increased aid, support for Pakistan position Kashmir, and Pushtoonistan, as well US as adherence Baghdad Pact. Although remote, possibility should not be overlooked that Soviets and Chinese Communists might offer Pakistan package deal of trade aid and good offices in disputes with Afghanistan and India which GOP would find difficult resist.

HILDRETH

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