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ORIGIN SS-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 SSO-00 /000 R

DRAFTED BY: NEA/PAB:SGGHITELMAN

APPROVED BY: P: MHARMACOST

NEA: HBSCHAFFER

NEA/PAB: RAFLATEN

P: AEASTHAM

EUR/SOV: SPIFER

S/S:JFCOLLINS

S/S-O:CDTROTTER

-----223363 101939Z /38

O 101810Z DEC 88
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS KHYBER DECAPTIONED

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, PK, AF, UR
SUBJECT: MARKER CALL ON ARMACOST, DECEMBER 9

REF: KABUL 2945

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: UNDER SECRETARY ARMACOST TOLD PAKISTAN
AMBASSADOR MARKER DECEMBER 9 THAT AFGHANISTAN WAS NOT
RAISED IN EITHER THE REAGAN-GORBACHEV OR THE
SHULTZ-SHEVARNADZE MEETING ON DECEMBER 7 IN NEW YORK.
GORBACHEV'S LATEST PROPOSALS ON AFGHANISTAN ARE NOT
PRACTICAL OR EVEN SERIOUS. THE MODERATE TONE OF THE
SOVIETS AT THE MEETINGS IN NEW YORK REINFORCES OUR VIEW
THAT THEY INTEND TO BE OUT OF AFGHANISTAN BY FEBRUARY 15,

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BUT ARE TRYING TO ENSURE THAT THEY LEAVE UNDER THE MOST
FAVORABLE CONDITIONS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

3. PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR MARKER CALLED BRIEFLY ON UNDER

SECRETARY ARMACOST ON DECEMBER 9 TO REQUEST A READOUT OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH GORBACHEV AND THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH SHEVARDNADZE. ALSO ATTENDING MEETING WERE NEA DAS SCHAFFER, P STAFFER EASTHAM, AND NEA/PAB OFFICER GHITELMAN (NOTETAKER).

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4. ARMACOST NOTED THAT AFGHANISTAN DID NOT COME UP AT EITHER OF THE MEETINGS. HE SAID THE EXPECTATION HAD BEEN THAT IT WOULD COME UP AT THE LUNCHEON. GORBACHEV, HOWEVER, DID NOT RAISE THE AFGHAN ISSUE.

5. ARMACOST REVIEWED SOME OF THE SPECIFIC POINTS GORBACHEV OUTLINED IN HIS UN SPEECH. NONE OF THE PROPOSALS WERE NEW OR REALLY SERIOUS, ARMACOST SAID. NEITHER THE CALL FOR A CEASE-FIRE NOR A BEEFED UP UN PEACE KEEPING FORCE IS PRACTICAL. THE RENEWED SOVIET INTEREST IN "NEGATIVE SYMMETRY" IS CURIOUS, GIVEN THE SOVIET'S REJECTION OF IT LAST MARCH. GORBACHEV'S CALL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AN INTERNATIONAL PEACE CORPS ARE MERELY REPLAYS OF EARLIER SOVIET EFFORTS TO INTERNATIONALIZE THEIR DILEMMA IN AFGHANISTAN. THE SECRETARY QUITE PROPERLY RESPONDED TO A QUESTION ON THE SUBJECT BY REITERATING SOME BASIC FACTS ABOUT AFGHANISTAN AND REIETERATING THE BOTTOM LINE: THE SOVIETS SHOULD GET OUT.

6. TURNING TO VORONTSOV'S MEETING WITH RABBANI IN TAIF, ARMACOST COMMENTED THAT THE RESISTANCE DELEGATION HANDLED ITSELF VERY WELL IN THE FACE OF A "VINTAGE" VORONTSOV

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PERFORMANCE, ALTERNATELY THREATENING AND BEGUILING. ARMACOST OBSERVED THAT VORONTSOV'S OFFER TO ARRANGE FOR RABBANI TO MEET WITH GORBACHEV IN MOSCOW REFLECTED SOVIET DESPERATION. ARMACOST CITED REPORTS FROM KABUL (REFTEL) THAT DESCRIBE THE GROWING SENSE OF ISOLATION BEING FELT BY THE PDPA, AND THAT, EXCEPT FOR NAJIB, THE PDPA POLITBURO WAS APPARENTLY NOT BRIEFED BY THE SOVIETS AS TO THE TACTICS OR EVEN THE TIMING OF THE TAIF MEETINGS.

7. ARMACOST CONCLUDED BY NOTING WITH SATISFACTION THE ABSENCE OF SOVIET ACCUSATORY RHETORIC DURING GORBACHEV'S NEW YORK VISIT. WE REGARD THE ABSENCE OF INVECTIVE AS A GOOD SIGN, AND WE STILL EXPECT THE SOVIETS, AFTER ALL IS SAID AND DONE, TO ADHERE TO THEIR OBLIGATION TO WITHDRAW FROM AFGHANISTAN BY FEBRUARY 15.

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8. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

SHULTZ

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