

~~SECRET~~

STATE 331503

ACTION: POL-4 INFO AMB DCM ECON-2 FCS DCM/P-2 DAO ODC PRESS USIS
AMB/X AID SCI BOMBAY CALCUTTA MADRAS RF CHRON/23

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE 9406

BT

SECRET STATE 381608

DOS REVIEWED 19-Apr-2007: DECLASSIFIED IN FULL

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: OPDC, IN

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER GANDHI

1. SECRET- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. PLEASE FORWARD FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER GANDHI TO REACH HIM BEFORE HIS MEETING WITH ZIA SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 17.

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER: AS WE GO INTO THE HOLIDAY SEASON, MY THOUGHTS DWELL ON WAYS WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE PEACE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. OUR DISCUSSIONS IN JUNE AND OCTOBER HAVE HELPED FOCUS ON THE NEED TO LESSEN REGIONAL TENSIONS. IT WAS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT I DISPATCHED UNDERSECRETARY MIKE ARMACOST AND MY DEPUTY ASSISTANT, DON FORTIER, TO SOUTH ASIA IN SEPTEMBER. AND, AS I MENTIONED IN THE LETTER THEY CARRIED, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE KEEP IN TOUCH ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

YOU KNOW MY APPREHENSIONS REGARDING NUCLEAR COMPETITION IN THE SUBCONTINENT. YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT ZIA NEXT WEEK IN DELHI CAN HELP SET THE AGENDA FOR PEACE. I UNDERSTAND THAT NUCLEAR ISSUES WILL FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN YOUR TALKS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT REGIONAL EFFORTS AIMED AT ACHIEVING NUCLEAR PEACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT. WE ARE ALSO WORKING BILATERALLY TO ENHANCE NON-PROLIFERATION PROSPECTS, AS YOU ASKED.

I HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH YOUR OWN EFFORT TOWARD BUILDING A MORE PEACEFUL SOUTH ASIA. YOU HAVE TURNED YOUR ENERGIES TO THE SERVICE OF IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS. THE OBJECTIVES OF INCREASED STABILITY AND PEACE IN THE REGION WERE WELL-SERVED BY THE MEETING IN DHAKA LAST WEEK THAT LAUNCHED THE SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH EFFORTS REQUIRE GOODWILL AND PATIENCE. AS I MENTIONED TO YOU DURING OUR MEETINGS IN JUNE, YOUR PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION AS A PEACE-MAKER IN A REGION BESET BY CONFLICT IS OF LASTING VALUE TO US ALL. RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS WITH BANGLADESH, CONSTRUCTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN HELPING SRI LANKA ACHIEVE PEACE AND YOUR PLANS TO OFFER NEW PEACE PROPOSALS TO PAKISTAN ARE ALL A PRODUCT OF YOUR COMMITMENT. THEY ALSO

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REFLECT THE PROUD TRADITION OF WHICH YOU ARE A PART.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, LET ME ONCE AGAIN ASSURE YOU OF WHAT I TOLD SOUTH ASIAN LEADERS GATHERED IN DHAKA: THAT THE UNITED STATES STANDS READY TO ASSIST SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES AS THEY WORK TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON INTEREST. IN ADDITION, I PARTICULARLY LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU FOR ON-GOING IMPROVEMENT IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS. AN EFFORT THAT I SHARED WITH PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI.

ONE LAST NOTE. YOU KNOW OF OUR DEEP DESIRE TO SEE AN EARLY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO THE TRAGIC CONFLICT IN AFGHANISTAN. IN ORDER TO DISPEL ANY MISPERCEPTIONS ABOUT OUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE AS GUARANTORS TO A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT, WE RECENTLY INFORMED SECRETARY GENERAL PEREZ DE CUELLAR IN WRITING OF OUR READINESS TO ACCEPT THE DRAFT INSTRUMENT ON INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES, PROVIDED THAT THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF SOVIET TROOP WITHDRAWAL IS RESOLVED. WE HOPE THAT CONCRETE PROGRESS WILL BE MADE IN THE UN NEGOTIATIONS.

NANCY JOINS ME IN WISHING YOU AND MRS. GANDHI HEALTH AND THE PEOPLE OF INDIA PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN THE NEW YEAR.

WITH WARMEST REGARDS, RONALD REAGAN. END TEXT.

2. WHITE HOUSE HAS NO PLANS TO RELEASE TEXT. SIGNED

ORIGINAL MAY FOLLOW. WHITEHEAD

BT

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