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TO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 3592
INFO RUHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 5198
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025803

file

EXDIS

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, OPDC, IN, US
SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT FROM PRIME MINISTER GANDHI

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER GANDHI TO THE PRESIDENT DATED JANUARY 7, ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO DEPARTMENT JANUARY 28:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I SINCERELY APPRECIATED THE SPIRIT IN WHICH YOU SHARED YOUR THOUGHTS WITH ME ON DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND US SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN IN YOUR LETTER OF 21ST NOVEMBER. I HAVE BENEFITTED GREATLY FROM OUR CORRESPONDENCE AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED INTERACTION ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

OUR POSITION IN AFGHANISTAN IS, AS YOU KNOW, THAT THE COUNTRY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CHART AN INDEPENDENT, NONALIGNED COURSE, FREE FROM INTERVENTION AND INTERFERENCE. I REITERATED THIS TO GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV. I ALSO CONVEYED TO HIM THE GIST OF WHAT YOU HAD WRITTEN TO ME. THE GENERAL SECRETARY LEFT ME WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD LIKE TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES IN A REALISTIC TIME-FRAME FROM AN AFGHANISTAN WHICH WOULD BE NONALIGNED AND NOT UNFRIENDLY TO THE SOVIET UNION. I HOPE THAT A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION WILL NOT ELUDE US FOR LONG. QUITE APART FROM OTHER FACTORS, AN EARLY SETTLEMENT WOULD BE IN INDIA'S INTEREST.

PAKISTAN HAS BEEN EXPLOITING THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN TO ACQUIRE HIGHER LEVELS AND TYPES OF ARMS. MOST OF THESE HAVE LITTLE OR NO BEARING ON ANY POSSIBLE CONFLICT ON THE AFGHAN BORDER. I AM GLAD THAT YOU HAVE AGREED TO KEEP OUR CONCERNS IN MIND ON PAKISTAN'S PERCEIVED REQUIREMENT OF ENHANCED EARLY WARNING CAPABILITY ON ITS MOUNTAINOUS WESTERN BORDER. THERE WERE DISCONCERTING REPORTS ON THE POSSIBLE SUPPLY OF AWACS AIRCRAFT TO PAKISTAN. THIS WOULD TRIGGER A QUALITATIVE NEW PHASE IN THE ARMS RACE IN OUR AREA AND ENHANCE TENSIONS TO DANGEROUS LEVELS.

IN YOUR LETTER WHICH SECRETARY WEINBERGER CARRIED DURING HIS VISIT TO INDIA, YOU HAD RIGHTLY POINTED OUT THAT PEACE REQUIRED TRUE NUCLEAR RESTRAINTS. WE REMAIN VERY SERIOUSLY CONCERNED AT PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR WEAPON PROGRAMME. PAKISTAN'S MILITARY CONTROLLED AND CLANDESTINELY ACQUIRED NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY CANNOT BE SEEN IN A BILATERAL CONTEXT WITH INDIA. THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROLIFERATION IN OUR REGION IS POSED BY PAKISTAN AND THAT IS WHERE IT MUST BE ADDRESSED.

End insert A

I SHARED THESE AND OTHER CONCERNS FRANKLY WITH PRIME MINISTER JUNEJO WHEN WE MET IN BANGALORE LAST MONTH. NOTWITHSTANDING PROVOCATIONS, WE HAVE DECIDED TO CONTINUE OUR DIALOGUE FOR NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS. WE HOPE THAT AS A RESULT OF RECENT TALKS PAKISTAN WILL CEASE ITS ASSISTANCE TO TERRORISTS IN INDIA AND START COOPERATING WITH US IN CURBING DRUG TRAFFICKING. THESE TWIN EVILS ARE OFTEN INTER-LINKED. PAKISTAN HAS ACCEPTED OUR SUGGESTION THAT AMERICAN DRUG LIAISON OFFICERS COULD BE ASSOCIATED IN OUR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT. I HOPE THAT IN THE COMING MONTHS WE WILL SEE CONCRETE MANIFESTATIONS OF PAKISTAN'S PROCLAIMED INTENTIONS OF BUILDING THE TROUBLE-FREE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP THAT WE DESIRE.

YOU ARE AWARE OF MY VIEWS ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT. THIS NATURALLY FIGURED IN MY TALKS WITH GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV. I EXPRESSED OUR SERIOUS CONCERN AT THE BREAKDOWN OF THE REYKJAVIK TALKS, WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN A HISTORIC TURNING POINT IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD. I ALSO SIGNED A JOINT DECLARATION WITH GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV ON A NON-VIOLENT AND NUCLEAR-FREE WORLD. THIS

DOCUMENT EMBODIES THE PRINCIPLES WE HAVE BEEN ADVOCATING OVER THE YEARS, EVEN BEFORE OUR INDEPENDENCE. I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THESE VALUES WILL BE ACCEPTED BY ALL COUNTRIES.

^[7-8-2] WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. WE WOULD LIKE TO STRENGTHEN OUR TIES BY EXPANDING OUR EXISTING COOPERATION AND MOVING INTO NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND ALSO IN DEFENCE. AFTER DISCUSSIONS WHICH SECRETARY WEINBERGER HAD IN INDIA IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO MOVE FURTHER AND ESTABLISH GREATER LINKAGES IN THE AREAS OF DEFENCE COOPERATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS. I UNDERSTAND THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED ON THE NEED TO HAVE INSTITUTIONALISED FOCAL POINTS FOR CLEARANCE OF DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS BUT THE METHODOLOGY HAS YET TO BE WORKED OUT.

insert B

EXDIS

SONIA JOINS ME IN SENDING MRS. REAGAN AND YOU OUR WARMEST
REGARDS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR.

YOURS SINCERELY,

RAJIV GANDHI END OF MESSAGE. SHULTZ

BT
#5803

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