

Return to Amb.

(6) ACTION: DCM-3 INFO AMB AMB/X CHRON

SU ZCNE0195
PP RUEHNE
DE RUEHC #9966 2160448
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 030446Z AUG 88
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2387
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249966

19 APR 2007 10:48:11 AM
DOS REVIEWED 19-Apr-2007: DECLASSIFIED IN FULL --88

TOR: 04:40
CN: 29848
CFRG: DCM
FIST: OI
ADD:

PRIORITY

FROM NEA/INS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, IN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

1. SUBJECT IS GANDHI - REAGAN LETTER. THE INDIAN EMBASSY PASSED US A COPY OF THE LATEST INSTALLMENT IN THE GANDHI - REAGAN CORRESPONDENCE. THE LETTER IS DATED NEW DELHI, JULY 20, 1988. TEXT FOLLOWS.

BEGIN TEXT. DEAR RON,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 9 JUNE, WHICH WAS GIVEN TO ME THE SAME DAY BY ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE MICHAEL ARMACOST. I AM SORRY I DID NOT HAVE THE PLEASURE OF TALKING TO YOU FROM NEW YORK. UNFORTUNATELY, A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME COULD NOT BE FOUND.

I SINCERELY APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTFUL GESTURE IN ASKING MR. ARMACOST TO BRIEF ME ON THE OUTCOME OF YOUR SUMMIT MEETING IN MOSCOW WITH GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV. MR. ARMACOST AND I ALSO HAD A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON AFGHANISTAN. I VALUE OUR CONTINUING DIALOGUE ON THESE AND OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

THE CONCERN EXPRESSED IN YOUR LETTER ARE INTER-RELATED TO OTHER ISSUES OF DISARMAMENT. AT THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT, WE OUTLINED A COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN FOR DISARMAMENT, INVOLVING SIMULTANEOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON A SERIES OF INTEGRALLY RELATED MEASURES. I ENCLOSE A COPY OF THE SPEECH I MADE AND OF THE ACTION PLAN, WHICH WE HAD SENT IN ADVANCE TO YOUR GOVERNMENT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR COOPERATION IN ADDRESSING OURSELVES COMPREHENSIVELY TO THESE ISSUES.

ON AFGHANISTAN, WE HOPE THAT THE GENEVA ACCORDS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FAITHFULLY BY ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED. AFGHANISTAN NEEDS A BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CONSENSUS, WHICH IS INDEPENDENT AND NONALIGNED. THIS WILL BE ASSURED IF THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN ARE LEFT FREE TO THEIR OWN DESTINY, WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERVENTION AND INTERFERENCE. NOTHING COULD UPSET THIS PROSPECT MORE THAN THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF FUNDAMENTALISM. A FUNDAMENTALIST REGIME IN KABUL WOULD NOT BE IN THE

INTEREST OF INDIA OR THE UNITED STATES. BY ITS VERY
DEFINITION, FUNDAMENTALISM CANNOT BE RECONCILED WITH THE
BASIC VALUES WHICH BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES CHERISH:
DEMOCRACY, EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL CITIZENS, EQUAL STATUS
FOR WOMEN AND OTHER SUCH HUMAN RIGHTS. I AM GLAD THAT
YOU HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE
EVOLVING SITUATION. //?

YOURS SINCERELY, END OF TEXT. WHITEHEAD

BT
#9966

NNNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249966

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