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AMB 03/13/86  
AMB:JGDEAN  
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DOS REVIEWED 18-Apr-2007: DECLASSIFIED IN FULL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
SECSTATE WASHDC, IMMEDIATE

EXDIS

19 Dec 86

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, PARM, US, UR, IN  
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI, MARCH 13:  
- REACTION TO GORBACHEV PROPOSAL

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON MARCH 13, I MET WITH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI IN HIS HOME. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO TRANSMIT TO HIM THE PRESIDENT'S REACTION TO THE GORBACHEV PROPOSAL. WHEN I HANDED HIM THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL MESSAGE (SET FORTH IN STATE 062537), I ALSO RAISED WITH HIM THE POSSIBILITY OF A U.S. ARMS CONTROL SPECIALIST TRAVELING TO NEW DELHI TO DISCUSS THE U.S. POSITION RELATIVE TO ONGOING U.S.-SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS. I THEN SUGGESTED DATES WHEN AMBASSADOR KAMPELMAN MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO COME TO DELHI (STATE 074757).

3. THE PRIME MINISTER REPLIED THAT HE WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR KAMPELMAN AND THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD BE IN DELHI AT THE END OF MAY AND IN EARLY JUNE. HE ADDED THAT THE SOONER MR. KAMPELMAN COULD COME THE BETTER IT WOULD BE. HOWEVER, HE PREFERRED TO WAIT FOR KAMPELMAN SINCE HE IS ONE OF THE MOST SENIOR AND EXPERIENCED U.S. EXPERTS AND NEGOTIATORS.

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4. I THEN GAVE THE PRIME MINISTER THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS HIS RESPONSE TO AN OCTOBER 24, 1985, LETTER FROM THE NEW DELHI SIX (STATE 069599). I POINTED OUT THAT SUBSEQUENT TO THE PREPARATION OF THAT REPLY, PRESIDENT REAGAN HAD RECEIVED A SECOND LETTER FROM THE SAME GROUP. THIS LETTER BECAME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE ON MARCH 10. SINCE THE PRESIDENT ONLY JUST RECEIVED THE SECOND LETTER FROM THE GROUP OF SIX, IT IS STILL UNDER STUDY.

5. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE GROUP OF SIX HAD ALREADY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES ON THE SECOND LETTER AND THAT HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PRESIDENT'S REACTION TO THAT SECOND MESSAGE. IN THE MEANTIME, HE AND HIS ADVISORS WOULD STUDY THE TWO LETTERS WHICH I HAD HANDED HIM. GANDHI SAID HE DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SOVIET UNION GIVING A REPLY TO THE SECOND LETTER FROM THE DELHI SIX BEFORE THE END OF MARCH. HE CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION ON THIS ISSUE BY REITERATING HIS GRATITUDE TO THE PRESIDENT FOR GIVING HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION TO KEEPING HIM INFORMED ON THE AMERICAN REACTION TO THE GORBACHEV PROPOSAL.

6. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS ADVISORS WILL DISCUSS THE SECOND LETTER FROM THE DELHI SIX WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SAME GROUP WHEN THEY MEET AT THE PALME FUNERAL IN STOCKHOLM. UPON GANDHI'S RETURN TO DELHI, I EXPECT HIM TO FOCUS MORE ON THE DELHI SIX NUCLEAR TESTING PROPOSAL, AND THE QUICKER WE CAN HAVE OUR INPUT THE BETTER IT WILL BE. WITH PALME'S DEMISE, IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT GANDHI SEES FOR HIMSELF A ROLE AS THE LEADER OF THE DELHI SIX. DEAN##

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