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Confidential (131-5-8-1-1)
PLS - T OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

TEL 200

CONFIDENTIAL
AMB 07/11/87
AMB:JGDEAN
AMB:JGDEAN:LEN
AMB:FCM AMB/X, CHRON
PIBU-ON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

JGDean
HS

EXDIS DOS REVIEWED 18-Apr-2007: DECLASSIFIED IN FULL

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS:PREL, IN, AF
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH RAJIV GANDHI ON AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 205610

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IN THE COURSE OF MY PRIVATE MEETING WITH RAJIV GANDHI ON JULY 10, I GAVE HIM A PAPER OUTLINING ALL THE POINTS SET FORTH IN PARA 3 REFTEL. GANDHI SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY DOUBTED THAT THE PRESENT NATIONAL RECONCILIATION EFFORT BY THE NAJIBULLAH GOVERNMENT WOULD WORK. FOR THAT MATTER, HE THINKS THAT THE AFGHAN ARE SO DIVIDED AMONG THEMSELVES THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO FIND A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE IMBROGLIO.

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3. IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH GORBACHEV ON AFGHANISTAN, RAJIV FOUND THE SOVIET LEADER TO BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE STRENGTHENING OF FUNDAMENTALISM THAN ABOUT INCREASED INFLUENCE OF MODERATE AFGHAN LEADERS WHO ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF THE WEST. GANDHI SAID THAT HE, GANDHI, COULD NOT REALISTICALLY ENVISION A COALITION-TYPE GOVERNMENT IN AFGHANISTAN ACCEPTABLE TO ALL SIDES.

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4. THIS GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO URGE HIM TO USE INDIA'S INFLUENCE WITH THE SOVIETS TO SEEK A SOVIET PULLOUT FROM AFGHANISTAN. GANDHI ASKED HOW COULD THIS BE ACHIEVED. I REPLIED THAT THE UN, PAKISTAN AND OTHERS ARE FOCUSING ON A CONCEPT OF A GENERALLY NEUTRAL TRANSITIONAL REGIME TO OVERSEE SOVIET WITHDRAWALS AND SOME FORM OF EXERCISE OF AFGHANISTAN SELF DETERMINATION. THE FORMER KING MIGHT BE ABLE TO PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN SUCH A TRANSITIONAL REGIME. GANDHI NOTED THAT THE KING'S NAME WAS MENTIONED IN HIS CONVERSATIONS IN MOSCOW AND THERE APPEARED TO BE NO OPPOSITION TO HIS PARTICIPATION.

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