

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

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 05022

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TAGS: PREL, SNAR, IN, US.
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM GANDHI TO PRESIDENT REAGAN ON
NARCOTICS, AFGHANISTAN

File

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

2. PRIME MINISTER GANDHI'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER RONEN SEN
DELIVERED LETTER REPRODUCED BELOW TO AMBASSADOR LATE
EVENING OF FEBRUARY 26. LETTER DEALS WITH REAGAN/GANDHI
DIALOGUE ON DRUG TRAFFICKING AND THE RELATED NEED FOR AN
EARLY SETTLEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN. UNDERSECRETARY ARMACOST
IS HANDCARRYING ORIGINAL TO WASHINGTON.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER GANDHI'S LETTER:

NEW DELHI
FEBRUARY 26, 1988

DEAR RONALD, (SALUTATION HANDWRITTEN)

- IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR DIALOGUE ON THE PROBLEM OF THE
DRUG MENACE, I THOUGHT I WOULD SHARE WITH YOU SOME TRENDS
WHICH HAVE EMERGED RECENTLY. OUR SUSTAINED AND COMBINED
EFFORTS TO MEET THIS PROBLEM ARE BEGINNING TO SHOW
POSITIVE RESULTS, THOUGH THERE IS OBVIOUSLY NO ROOM FOR
COMPLACENCY.

RECENT INTERPOL ANALYSIS OF DRUG SEIZURES IN EUROPE
SHOW A MARKED DECLINE IN THE PRODUCTION OF HEROIN OBTAINED
FROM, OR THROUGH, INDIA FROM 35% IN 1985 TO 29% IN 1986
AND 8% IN 1987. SEIZURES IN INDIA HAVE ALSO YIELDED
DRAMATIC RESULTS.

- DURING OUR MEETING IN WASHINGTON LAST OCTOBER, WE HAD
AGREED THAT THE INDO-US WORKING GROUP ON NARCOTICS SHOULD
BE CONVENED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. THIS GROUP MET LAST
MONTH AND THE DISCUSSIONS WERE MOST PRODUCTIVE. A NUMBER
OF POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED,
PARTICULARLY IN THE TRAINING OF FIELD OFFICERS AND FOR THE
ACQUISITION OF MODERN EQUIPMENT FOR OUR LABORATORIES AND
DRUG ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS. I HAVE ALSO INSTRUCTED THAT
A DELEGATION OF SENIOR OFFICIALS VISIT THE UNITED STATES
TO STUDY YOUR EXPERIENCE IN REHABILITATION AND WELFARE. I

UNDERSTAND THAT THE VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE SOME TIME IN APRIL.

- THERE ARE TWO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION THAT ARE LIKELY TO HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR EFFORTS TO COMBAT DRUG TRAFFICKING. THROUGH BILATERAL CONTACTS AND WITHIN THE REGIONAL FRAMEWORK OF SAARC, WE TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO EXPAND OUR INTERACTION ON THIS PROBLEM WITH PAKISTAN, SINCE A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF DRUGS SEIZED BY OUR AGENCIES ARE OF PAKISTANI ORIGIN. AT A RECENT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WITH PAKISTAN, THEY AGREED TO OUR SUGGESTION FOR EXCHANGING OPERATIONAL INFORMATION. THE DISTURBED CONDITIONS ON THE AFGHAN-PAKISTAN BORDER IS ONE OF THE MAJOR SOURCES OF THE PROBLEM. THIS IS AN ADDED DIMENSION TO OUR STAKE IN AN EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE AFGHANISTAN ISSUE.

YOURS SINCERELY,

(SIGNED BY HAND) RAJIV

THE HONOURABLE RONALD REAGAN,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
WASHINGTON.

END TEXT.

DEAN
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