

SECRET NEW DELHI 1557

(3) ORIGIN: AMB-1 INFO DCM POL
CHRON (DUMMY)

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DE RUEHNE #4557 160 **
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3587
RUEHIL / AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 2802
BT
SECRET NEW DELHI 14557

CLASS: SECRET
CHRGF: POL 6/8/88
APPRV: AMB:JGDEAN
DRFTD: POL:RKBGGS
CLFAR: DCM:GLSTREEB
DISTR: EXDI
ORGIN: WNG ID: 03176 MA

EXDIS

DOS REVIEWED 19-Apr-2007: DECLASSIFIED IN FULL

DEPT PASS SECDEF WASHDC
DEPT PASS USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL

file

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, MASS, US, PK, IN
SUBJ: SALE OF AWACS TO PAKISTAN

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 12237; B) NEW DELHI 14015

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. I AM PLEASED THAT PRESIDENT ZIA APPEARS TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTIES HE HAS CREATED FOR THE CONGRESS ON THE QUESTION OF FUTURE U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN BY DISMISSING HIS PRIME MINISTER AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (REF A). I AM CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT HE MAY NOT UNDERSTAND--OR MAY NOT BE FORCED TO ACKNOWLEDGE--THE FULL EXTENT OF THE ACTIONS HE WILL HAVE TO TAKE TO ENABLE THE U.S. TO EXTRICATE ITS SOUTH ASIA POLICY FROM THE BIND IN WHICH HE HAS PLACED IT.

3. U.S. RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN IN THE WAKE OF THE EVENTS OF MAY 29 WILL BE SCRUTINIZED BY OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION (AND PROBABLY AROUND THE WORLD) FOR PROOF OF THE BONAFIDES OF OUR PROFESSED POLICY OF SUPPORTING THE GROWTH OF DEMOCRACY. AS I POINTED OUT IN REF B, CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF AWACS AFTER ZIA HAS ABROGATED THREE YEARS OF IMPRESSIVE PROGRESS TOWARD DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN WOULD BE A DEVASTATING BLOW TO OUR CREDIBILITY AS A CHAMPION OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS. IT WOULD ALSO VALIDATE IN THE MINDS OF MANY THE PERENNIAL CHARGES OF OUR ADVERSARIES THAT WHERE PAKISTAN IS CONCERNED, THE U.S. IS WILLING TO SUBORDINATE ALL OTHER INTERESTS TO SOME PRESUMED STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES. OUR COMMON VICTORY OVER THE SOVIETS IN AFGHANISTAN SERVES BOTH U.S. AND PAKISTANI INTERESTS, BUT IT IN NO WAY OBLIGATES THE U.S. TO OVERLOOK THOSE ASPECTS OF PAKISTANI POLICY WHERE OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS DO NOT COINCIDE.

4. I CAN ATTEST THAT THERE IS PERVASIVE SKEPTICISM IN INDIA (AND, I BELIEVE, THROUGHOUT THE REGION) ABOUT

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GEN. ZIA'S PROMISES OF ELECTIONS. NO ONE TO WHOM I
HAVE TALKED SINCE MAY 29 BELIEVES THAT THE U.S. IS SO
NAIVE AS TO TAKE THESE PROMISES AT FACE VALUE EITHER.
HISTORY BEARS ELOQUENT TESTIMONY TO THE EVANESCENCE OF
PROMISES. I STRONGLY URGE THAT ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION
OF AWACS BE HELD IN ABEYANCE NOT FOR JUST A FEW DAYS
OR UNTIL ZIA MAKES NEW PROMISES BUT FOR AS LONG AS IT
TAKES FOR ZIA TO DEMONSTRATE BY DEED HIS COMMITMENT TO
A TRULY DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.
DEAN

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