

GR 220A
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 291915Z FEB
TO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW
TELEGRAM NUMBER 162 OF 29TH FEB '80

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YOUR TELS NO : 176 AND 177: AFGHANISTAN.

1. ONE WAY OF EXPLORING SOVIET THINKING MAY BE TO ASK ZEMSKOV TO COMMENT ON OUR INCORPORATION OF THE KEY POINT IN BREZHNEV'S SPEECH INTO OUR OUTLINE IDEAS ON NEUTRALITY; AND IF NECESSARY TO REDEPLOY THE PUS'S POINT ABOUT STEPPING FORWARD TOGETHER.
2. YOU MAY, IF NECESSARY REFER TO SOME OF THE HEADINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT'S PAPER ON NEUTRALITY AS YOUR PERSONAL IDEAS ON ELEMENTS WHICH MIGHT REQUIRE CONSIDERATION.
3. PARA 2 OF YOUR TELNO 176. WE THINK MY TEL NO: 159 GIVES YOU THE ESSENTIAL POINTS.
4. YOUR TEL NO 177. OUR REPORT FROM THE FRG EMBASSY HERE DESCRIBES BONDARENKO AS SHOWING NO INTEREST IN THE POSSIBILITY OF GUARANTEES OR A NEUTRAL AFGHANISTAN. HE SEEMED TO BE THINKING OF A BUFFER STATE ON THE MONGOLIAN MODEL. BONDARENKO EVEN ARGUED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD THE RIGHT TO IMPOSE A MINORITY COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT ON A PEOPLE AGAINST ITS WILL, WHERE THIS WAS IN ITS TRUE INTERESTS, EVEN THOUGH IT HAD NOT YET COME TO SEE THIS. IF ZEMSKOV TAKES THIS LINE, YOU COULD SAY THAT IT IS A PRESCRIPTION FOR INTERNATIONAL ANARCHY AND GOES AGAINST EVERY PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, UN CHARTER, FINAL ACT ETC., AND ASK WHETHER IT IS REALLY THE SOVIET POSITION.
5. PLEASE REPEAT YOUR TELEGRAM REPORTING YOUR TALK WITH ZEMSKOV IMMEDIATE DESKBY 031600Z TO WASHINGTON.

CARRINGTON

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