

Afghanistan  
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FM WASHINGTON 170008Z APR 80  
TO PRIORITY F.C.O.  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1490 OF 16 APRIL.  
INFO BONN, PARIS.

ms.

AFGHANISTAN

1. AT THE FOUR-POWER LUNCH TODAY THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR GAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS FROM PARIS ON WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE BRITISH PROPOSALS FOR A SPECIAL STATUS FOR AFGHANISTAN:

- (A) SUCH A STATUS MIGHT GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF PUTTING AFGHANISTAN INTO A STATE OF TUTELAGE:
- (B) IT WOULD INVOLVE COMMITMENT BY AN AFGHAN GOVERNMENT - YET WE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE LEGITIMACY OF THE PRESENT AFGHAN GOVERNMENT:
- (C) IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE AFGHANS THEMSELVES COULD EXPRESS AN OPINION ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ON SUCH A STATUS:
- (D) AS REGARDS GUARANTEES BY THIRD PARTIES WE SHOULD BE VERY CAUTIOUS TO DO NOTHING THAT MIGHT JUSTIFY SUBSEQUENT INTERVENTION FROM OUTSIDE:
- (E) AS REGARDS THE DURAND LINE, THE FRENCH THOUGHT IT BEST TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT THE FRONTIER SO THAT ATTENTION SHOULD NOT BE DISTRACTED TO THAT ISSUE.

2. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS THE FRENCH WERE THINKING OF SOMETHING IMPRECISE COVERING THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF AFGHANISTAN IN WHICH OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD SAY THAT THEY WOULD RESPECT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF AFGHANISTAN, AND WOULD UNDERTAKE NOT TO SEND IN ANY TROOPS OR TRY TO MAKE THE COUNTRY JOIN ALLIANCES. EVENTUALLY SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE TAKEN NOTE OF BY THE UNITED NATIONS.

3. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED THE REASONS THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAD GIVEN HIM AT A RECENT LUNCH, FOR THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN BUT I DO NOT CONSIDER THEM WORTH TELEGRAPHING, OR INDEED RECORDING. HE ALSO REFERED TO GROMYKO'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO PARIS.

HENDERSON

[THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]  
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