

GRS 210

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FM ISLAMABAD 090937Z JUL 81

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 350 OF 9TH JULY

INFO MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON

MIPT: AFGHANISTAN

1. SHAH NAWAZ ALSO TOLD ME THAT THEY HAD JUST HAD ANOTHER VERY THREATENING MESSAGE FROM THE RUSSIANS. THIS WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE QUOTE VERY CONCERNED UNQUOTE ABOUT THE DIRECTION PAKISTAN POLICY WAS TAKING AND SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE ARMS DEAL WITH THE UNITED STATES. THESE ARMS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY FIND THEIR WAY INTO THE HANDS OF THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE AND THE SOVIET UNION WOULD HAVE TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO PREVENT THIS. THERE WAS ALSO A HINT THAT THE NUMBER OF SOVIET TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN WOULD INEVITABLY BE INCREASED.

2. THIS SORT OF THREATENING MESSAGE HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO THE PAKISTANIS BEFORE, THOUGH THIS TIME IT WAS IN SOMEWHAT BLUNTER TERMS.

3. THESE MESSAGES COME FROM A PROFESSOR GANKOVSKY IN MOSCOW AND THE PAKISTANIS BELIEVE THAT HE IS A SOVIET GOVERNMENT MOUTHPIECE USED TO CONVEY TOUGH MESSAGES WHILE THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR HERE IS TALKING IN MORE DIPLOMATIC TERMS. BUT THEY WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR OUR ASSESSMENT OF PROFESSOR GANKOVSKY AND THE IMPORTANCE TO BE ATTACHED TO HIS WARNINGS.

4. SHAH NAWAZ SAID THAT HE WOULD BE SPEAKING IN SIMILAR TERMS ONLY TO THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR.

FORSTER

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