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FM KABUL 181012Z

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NO 248 OF 18 AUGUST 80.

INFO ROUTINE ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, UKDEL  
NATO AND MODUK (DI4).

INFO SAVING TO UKMIS NEW YORK.

*MAP 21/8*

MY TELEGRAM NO 245 : AFGHANISTAN : SITREP.

POLITICAL.

AN AGREEMENT WITH THE USSR ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CO-  
OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HIGHT AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION WAS  
SIGNED DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF THE SOVIET DEPUTY MINISTER.

THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR, INTER ALIA :

- (I) 1500 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AFGHANS IN THE USSR :
- (II) 43 SOVIET LECTURERS FOR KABUL UNIVERSITY :
- (III) A NUMBER OF RESEARCH AND POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS IN  
THE USSR :
- (IV) RUSSIAN LANGUAGE COURSES IN THE AFGHAN INSTITUTES OF  
AGRICULTURE AND OF MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTING :
- (V) THE SUPPLY OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TEXTBOOKS TO KABUL  
UNIVERSITY.

THIS REPRESENTS A FURTHER AND HEAVY INJECTION OF SOVIET  
INFULENCE WHERE IT MATTERS FOR THE FUTURE.

2. A YOUNG PIONEERS ORGANISATION HAS BEEN SET UP TO PROVIDE  
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR DEPRIVED AND DESTITUTE CHILDREN.  
THE SPEECHES MARKING THE OCCASION SUGGEST RECREATION THROUGH  
INDOCTRINATION.

3. A PRESS CONFERENCE WAS GIVEN AT THE MFA ON 17 AUGUST TO  
DISPLAY A SELF-CONFESSED REBEL, SAID TO BE AN IRANIAN, WHO  
MADE PREDICTABLE REVELATIONS ABOUT INSURGENT ACTIVITIES  
AROUND THE COUNTRY, CIA INVOLVEMENT AND WEAPONS OF WESTERN  
ORIGIN. THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN NO MENTION IN KABUL OF THE  
ITEM CARRIED ON OTHER MEDIA THAT OTHER FOREIGN NATIONALS HAD  
BEEN CAPTURED, AND WE KNOW OF NONE.

4. BABRAK KARMAL ATTENDED EID PRAYERS IN THE MOSQUE IN THE  
HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE AND ISSUED AN EID MESSAGE. SOME 400  
PRISONERS, FROM KABUL AND THE PROVINCES, WERE ANNOUNCED TO  
HAVE BEEN RELEASED TO MARK EID.

5. MINISTERS CONTINUE TO ADDRESS MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCES,  
PARTICULARLY THE PROBLEM PROVINCES, MOST RECENTLY IN GHAZNI  
AND HERAT.

6. THE AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS OF SARWARI TO MONGOLIA,  
MOKAMEL TO IRAQ, AND ABEDI TO TURKEY (MY TELEGRAM NO 237)  
WERE ANNOUNCED ON 17 AUGUST, WITH THAT OF ABDUL RAUF BENAWA  
(MY LETTER OF 7 FEBRUARY TO SAD REFERS) TO LIBYA. ALSO IN

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THE PIPELINE ARE THE APPOINTMENTS OF 5 MFA OFFICERS AS CHARGES IN HAVANA, EAST BERLIN, BONN, ISLAMABAD AND UN NEW YORK. THESE OFFICERS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ONE FOR BONN, ARE ALL SENIOR CAREER DIPLOMATS AND THEIR PLACES ARE EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN BY PARTY PURISTS.

INTERANL SECURITY.

7. THE LEVEL OF AUTOMATIC SMALLARMS FIRE HEARD AT NIGHT AROUND KABUL HAS INCREASED OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS. THERE ARE RELIABLE REPORTS OF A FIRE FIGHT IN KHAIRKHANA SUBURB ON 16 AUGUST WITH SEVERAL KILLED, OF FIRING ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE AIRPORT ON 15 AUGUUT, OF THE ASSASSINATION OF A NEPHEW OF TARAKI IN THE CENTRE OF KABUL ON 14 AUGUST, AND OF ATTACKS ON TWO HOUSES OF RELATIVES OF BABRAK IN KAMARI VILLAGE IN THE SHEWAKI SUBURK A WEEK AGO. THE PICTURE IS EVEN WORSE IN A NUMBER OF PROVINCES, KUNDUZ, HERAT, JALALABAD, PARWAN, KAPISA, WITH REPORTS OF ASSASSINATIONS AND ATROCITIES. THE PROPORTIONS ATTRIBUTABLE TO KHALQ V PARCHAM AND TO RESISTANCE V PARTY WORKERS IS UNDETERMINED. THERE ARE ALSO A FEW REPORTS OF ATROCITIES AGAINST RUSSIAN CAPTIVES.

8. AERIAL ACTIVITY OUT OF KABUL IS AT A NORMAL LEVEL AND HELICOPTERS AND JETS WERE SEEN LAUNCHING ATTACKS IN PAGHMAN ON 16 AUGUST.

9. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS, RELIABLE BUT SO FAR NOT WHOLLY CONFIRMED, OF A HEAVY ATTACK BY SOVIET/AFGHAN FORCES, ON HERAT TOWN, SAID TO HAVE BEEN LARGELY UNDER THE CONTROL OF RESISTANCE FORCES, ABOUT ONE WEEK AGO. IF THE REPORTS TURN OUT TO BE TRUE, THIS ATTACK ON A MAJOR TOWN, WITH WAHT MUST HAVE BEEN THOUSANDS OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES, MARKS A DEPARTURE IN SOVIET MILITARY TACTICS. THIS SORT OF OPERATION MUST BE ONE THEY BADLY WANTED TO AVOID, BUT HAVING ALLOWED THE TOWN TO SLIDE INTO CHAOS, (MY TELEGRAM NO 240) ORDER WOULD HAVE TO BE RESTORED AT SOME TIME.

10. THERE IS SAID TO BE A HIGH-RANKING SOVIET MILITARY DELEGATION IN KABUL AND THE GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE WHERE THEY ARE SAID TO BE STAYING HAS SPROUTED POWERFUL LOOKING ANTENNAE.

11. KABUL RADIO ANNOUNCED ON 17 AUGUST THE ROUTING OF A 400 STRONG BAND OF INSURGENTS AROUND PULE KHUMRI, DEFEATED BY A COMBINED FORCE OF AFGHAN MILITARY AND VOLUNTEER PARTY MILITANTS.

12. THE CURFEW HAS BEEN RESTORED TO 11 P.M. AFTER THE END OF RAMADAN.

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13. VISAS.

FOR SEVERAL DAYS ALL REQUESTS FOR ENTRY VISAS AT KABUL AIRPORT HAVE BEEN REFUSED AND PASSENGERS TURNED BACK. NO ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE AND IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER THIS IS A TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT MEASURE.

PRESS DISTRIBUTION.

14. PARAGRAPH 6 IS NOT SUITABLE AND PARAGRAPH 9 IS PROBABLY BETTER OMITTED UNTIL WE ARE CERTAIN WHAT HAPPENED.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING UKMIS NEW YORK.

**THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED**

HOWELL.

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

AFGHANISTAN STANDARD

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