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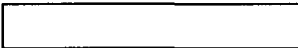
*h: Ambassador saw 24 Jan
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FM AMBASSADOR BYROADE, ISLAMABAD



APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2008(U)

TO AMBASSADOR HELMS, TEHRAN

EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR HELMS FROM BYROADE

1. IT HAD BEEN MY UNDERSTANDING, BASED ON JUST WHAT I DO NOT KNOW, THAT AZIZ AHMED'S CONVERSATIONS IN OUR WHITE HOUSE LED TO SUGGESTION FROM OUR SIDE THAT YOU WOULD COME OVER AND TALK TO BHUTTO PRIMARILY ABOUT RUSSIAN INTENTIONS IN THE AREA.
2. IN A RECENT TALK WITH AZIZ AHMED, HOWEVER THINGS TOOK A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT TURN. HE TOOK THE POSITION THAT BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND KISSINGER WERE EXCEEDINGLY SYMPATHETIC TO PAKISTAN'S NEED FOR BETTER MILITARY EQUIPMENT. HE QUOTED NIXON AS SAYING "WE WILL TRY TO FIND A WAY." HE SEEMS TO BE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT KISSINGER IS INDEED TRYING TO FIND A WAY, BUT REALIZES HE IS ALL TIED UP IN OTHER THINGS NOW. BHUTTO SAID KISSINGER TOLD HIM WHEN HE LAST WENT THROUGH HERE THAT HE WOULD TURN HIS ATTENTION TO THE PROBLB WHEN HE COULD SPRING HIMSELF FROM MIDDLE EAST MATTERS.
3. AZIZ AHMED GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT HE THINKS THE "WAY" THAT IS BEING STUDIED IS ARMS THROUGH IRAN. HE MAKES THE CASE THAT WE COULD LEGALLY DO THIS EVEN THOUGH THE LAW NORMALLY PROHIBITS SUCH TRANSFER ONLY BETWEEN MAP COUNTRIES, WHICH PAKISTAN IS NOT. HE ARGUES HIS CASE ON THE FACT THAT OUR SECURITY AGREEMENTS COULD BE USED TO JUSTIFY SUCH ACTION WITH OUR CONGRESS.
4. I TOLD HIM THAT IN GENERAL I WAS NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HANDLING THINGS THROUGH THIRD COUNTRIES. AS EVERYTHING WE

~~DOIS~~ KNOWN SOONER OR LATER, WE WOULD PROBABLY IN THE END RECEIVE EVEN MORE BLAME AND CRITICISM THAN PROVIDING ANYTHING THAT WE DECIDED WE COULD DO MORE OPENLY AND DIRECTLY. HE DID NOT SEEM VERY HAPPY ABOUT THIS, BUT I LET IT GO AT THAT.

5. ALL THIS RAISES THE QUESTION OF WHAT YOU WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH WHEN YOU COME HERE. NOT KNOWING, OF COURSE, JUST WHAT DID HAPPEN IN AZIZ AHMED'S AND BHUTTO'S TALKS BACK HOME, I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY WOULD BE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU WOULD BE PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT THESE KINDS OF POSSIBILITIES. THEY MIGHT WELL THINK THAT YOU MIGHT EVEN BE INVOLVED IN STUDIES OF "TRYING TO FIND A WAY."

6. THIS IS JUST A WARNING MESSAGE TO YOU SO THAT YOU CAN THINK ABOUT IT BEFORE YOU COME. IN A BACK CHANNEL DIRECTED TO BRENT SCOCROFT ONLY I LET HIM KNOW OF THE QUOTES I RECEIVE HERE RE OUR WHITE HOUSE, BUT DID NOT MENTION ANYTHING HAVING TO DO WITH IRAN. I TOLD BRENT I WAS NOT TRYING TO GET ANY VERIFICATION FROM HIM OF QUOTES OF THIS NATURE, BUT THAT I WOULD BE WANTING TO TALK TO KISSINGER ABOUT IT ORALLY ON MY NEXT TRIP HOME. E2 IMPDET.

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