

~~TOP SECRET~~ /EYES ONLY 161612Z OCT 73

CITE TEHRAN

TO: IMMEDIATE GENERAL SCOWCROFT, WHITE HOUSE

FROM: AMB. HELMS, TEHRAN

1. 1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO SECRETARY KISSINGER FOR
PRESIDENT AND HIM.

2. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO SUMMONED ME FEW MINUTES AGO. AFTER
GIVING BRIEF RUNDOWN ON HIS PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT IN WASH-
INGTON, HE DESCRIBED DOMESTIC PRESSURES BUILDING UP IN HIS COUNTRY,
AS RESULT OF WHAT HE REFERRED TO AS "ALL-PERVASIVE MUSLIM INFULENCE",
FOR POSTIVE ACTION IN SUPPORT OF ARAB CAUSE IN CURRENT CONFLICT. HE
SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN CONTAINING THIS PRESSURE BY VARIOUS DEVICES, BUT
IN ADDITION TO DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS, HE HAS BEEN GETTING INSISTENT
REQUESTS FROM ARAB PARTICIPANTS, PARTICULARLY SYRIA, FOR MILITARY
SUPPORT. EVEN HIS MILITARY CHIEFS OF STAFF FAVORED SENDING A BRIGADE
TO SYRIAN FRONT. BHUTTO CLAIMS HE ARGUED THEM OUT OF SUCH AN AD-
VENTURE BUT HE DID AGREE TO SENDING SOME AMMUNITION TO SYRIA WHICH
HE HAS DONE AND IS DOING. HIS QUERY TO THE PRESIDENT IS THIS: IN
CONTEXT OF PAK DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS PRESSURES, HE STILL
WANTS TO BE HELPFUL, AND IF POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTIVE, IN BEHALF OF HIS
"FRIEND AND VALUED ALLY", THE UNITED STATES. HE WANTS TO KNOW

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2008

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WHETHER ON BALANCE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO PROCEED TO DAMASCUS AFTER HE VISITS TURKEY AND SAUDI ARABIA, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY SCHEDULED. HE SEES A PLUS IN THIS VISIT, BECAUSE HE COULD CONVINCE SYRIANS OF HIS INABILITY TO HELP THEM MILITARILY EXCEPT FOR AMMUNITION. HE COULD ALSO TRY TO PERSUADE THEM THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR A CEASE-FIRE IN PLACE. HE SEE A MINUS IN THE FACT THAT SUCH A VISIT MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTOOD, THAT IT WOULD LOOK AS THOUGH HE WERE THROWING WHAT WEIGHT PAKISTAN HAS BEHIND THE ARAB CAUSE. IN SHORT, HE WANTS USG OPINION AS TO WHETHER HE SHOULD PROCEED TO SYRIA OR WHETHER HE SHOULD RETURN HOME DIRECTLY FROM SAUDI ARABIA. HIS PRIDE WOULD NOT PERMIT HIM TO PUT THE QUESTION IN TERMS OF USG APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.

3. YOUR REPLY CAN BE PASSED TO BHUTTO EITHER HERE OR VIA MACOMBER IN ANKARA. HE SAYS HE DOES NOT CARE WHICH. HE DEPARTS TEHRAN AT 1400 LOCAL OCTOBER 17, PROCEEDING FROM TURKEY TO SAUDI ARABIA OCTOBER 18.

4. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN PASSED THROUGH ME, BECAUSE BHUTTO DID NOT WANT TO DEAL WITH SOBER IN ISLAMABAD ON THIS KIND OF MATTER. HIS REASONS CAN BE HANDLED SEPARATELY IN ANOTHER MESSAGE IF YOU NEED THEM.

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