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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8756
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 1219

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PK, US, IN
SUB: CURRENT REACTION REPORT FEB 8

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION USINFO, INFO SECSTATE, KARACHI, LAHORE,
NEW DELHI, KABUL AND DACCA DATED FEB 08, 1975
REPEATING FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE
UNCLAS ISLAMABAD USIS

FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA STATE NEA/PAB

E.O. 11652 N/A
SUB: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION FEB 8

BHUTTO VISIT: U.S.-PAK JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND BHUTTO'S
REMARKS AT HIS DINNER RECEPTION DOMINATED LEADS WITH
MOST USING BANNER HEADS. OTHER ITEMS WHICH RECEIVED
PROMINENT FRONT PAGE TREATMENT INCLUDED BHUTTO'S
DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON AND ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK AND
BBC CORRESPONDENT'S REPORT SAYING "ARMS BAN TO END THIS
MONTH--BHUTTO ASSURED".

EXTENSIVE FRONT, BACK-PAGE PICTORIAL COVERAGE INCLUDING
FORD'S DINNER, BHUTTO DINNER FOR ROCKEFELLER, DEPARTURE
FROM WASHINGTON AND ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK AND BHUTTO
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MEETINGS WITH KISSINGER, SCHLESINGER AND MORGAN. BIGGEST CIRCULATION JANG USED SEVEN PICTURES ON FRONT PAGE. LEAD STORIES IN NPT'S PAKTIMES AND MORNING NEWS ON JOINT COMMUNIQUE WERE CREDITED TO THEIR CORRESPONDENTS WHO ADDED THEIR COMMENTS, WHILE OTHERS USED APP VERSION. PAKTIMES H.K. BURKI WRITING ON COMMUNIQUE SAID QUOTE "PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S VISIT, WHICH CONCLUDED WITH A JOINT COMMUNIQUE THIS MORNING, HAS ACHIEVED ITS MAIN OBJECTIVES--THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT GERALD FORD AND THE REAFFIRMATION OF WASHINGTON'S CONTINUED BACKING FOR PAKISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AS "AN ENDURING PRINCIPLE OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY".

THERE IS A BRIEF REFERENCE IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO THE "MUTUAL SECURITY CONCERNS" IN THE CONTEXT OF COMMITMENT TO THE STRENGTHENING OF REGIONAL AND WORLD PEACE WHICH LEAVES THE QUESTION OF AMERICAN ARMS EMBARGO UNSETTLED, IN A FORMAL SENSE AT LEAST. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT FORD'S REITERATION OF POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY CARRIES WITH IT A GOOD DEAL OF WEIGHT. CERTAINLY ITS IMPORTANCE WITH NOT BE LOST ON PAKISTAN'S HOSTILE NEIGHBOURS.

IN CONCRETE TERMS, THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE MERELY FORMALISES THE ALREADY KNOWN AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO SUPPLY ANOTHER 300,000 TONS OF WHEAT TO PAKISTAN AND MR. FORD'S ASSURANCE ON ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS THIS YEAR AND THE NEXT. THE PRESIDENT HAS ALSO PLEDGED APRIORITY ATTENTION" TO PAKISTAN'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS.

IT MAY BE TOO SOON OF COURSE TO MAKE A PROPER ASSESSMENT OF MR. BHUTTO'S INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO SOFTEN CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO. A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION INDICATES THAT WHILE SOME OF THE LEADERS IN CONGRESS ARE NOW SYMPATHETIC TO PAKISTAN'S CASE OTHERS CONTINUE, FOR VARIOUS REASONS, TO MAINTAIN THEIR HOSTILITY. UNQUOTE

MORNING NEWS CORRESPONDENT SULTAN AHMED REPORTING UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMUNIQUE SAID QUOTE "FOR MORE WAS ACHIEVED DURING PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S TWO-DAY TALKS IN WASHINGTON THAN HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN THE BLAND JOINT COMMUNIQUE

ISSUED BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK THIS MORNING. WHILE THE COMMUNIQUE IS FIRM ON PRESIDENT FORD'S COMMITMENT TO GIVE FOUR LAKH TONS OF WHEAT TO PAKISTAN THIS YEAR, IT IS NON-COMMITTAL ON THE ISSUE OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO ON U.S. ARMS TO PAKISTAN BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE NEED TO OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL BEFORE THE EMBARGO CAN BE LIFTED. BUT ON THE POLITICAL PLANE, PRESIDENT FORD'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN IS FORTHRIGHT AND IT HAS BEEN MENTIONED AS AN "ENDURING PRINCIPLE OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY." INDEPENDENT NAWA-I-WAQT COUPLED ITS LEAD ON COMMUNIQUE WITH A COMMENT BY ITS CORRESPONDENT ARIF NIZAMI SAYING QUOTE "THOUGH NO DEFINITE ASSURANCE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO PAKISTAN ABOUT LIFTING OF ARMS EMBARGO, THERE IS GENERAL IMPRESSION THAT PREMIER BHUTTO HAS SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING U.S. GOVERNMENT AND AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS ABOUT REASONABLENESS OF PAKISTAN' DEMAND." NIZAMI QUOTED FROM AMERICAN PRESS TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS CONTENTION. APP REPORTING OF COMMUNIQUE AND BHUTTO DINNER SPEECH WAS STRAIGHT.

FOLLOWING

ARE MAJOR HEADLINES:

NPT PAKTIMES: "BHUTTO'S VISIT ACHIEVES ITS MAIN OBJECTIVES: JOINT COMMUNIQUE--ENDURING SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN'S INTEGRITY REAFFIRMED BY AMERICA".

INDEPENDENT DAWN: "MUTUAL SECURITY AND REGIONAL PEACE DISCUSSED. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON PM'S U.S. VISIT.--

FRIENDSHIP WITH INDIA ON EQUALITY BASIS, SAYS BHUTTO'Z

NPT MORNING NEWS: "SUPPORT TO PAKISTAN INDEPENDENCE U.S. POLICY'S ENDING PRINCIPLE: SAYS FORD., BHUTTO ASSURED OF PRIORITY TO AID REQUIREMENTS.-- BHUTTO HAS GIVEN SENSE OF PURPOSE TO PAKISTAN, SAYS ROCKEFELLER."

INDEPENDENT JANG: "PM BHUTTO, PRESIDENT FORD DISCUSS MUTUAL SECURITY PROBLEMS. INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN ARE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, SAYS FORD., AGREEMENT ON FURTHER STRENGTHENING CLOSE RELATIONS.-- PAKISTAN READY TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH

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INDIA ON EQUALITY, NON-INTERFERENCE BASIS, SAYS BHUTTO.

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8759

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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YOU HAVE MADE THE NATION REALISE ITS DESTINATION, OBJECT
TIVES, SAYS ROCKEFELLER."

INDEPENDENT NAWA-I-WAQT: "RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND
U.S. WILL BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED, JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT BY
PREMIER BHUTTO AND PRESIDENT FORD, PAKISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE
AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WILL REMAIN ENDURING PRINCIPLE
OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, PRESIDENT FORD AND PREMIER BHUTTO
HELD IMPORTANT TALKS ON MUTUAL SECURITY, U.S. WILL CONTINUE
TO GIVE ASSISTANCE FOR PAKISTAN'S FOOD AND DEVELOPMENT
NEEDS, U.S. WILL FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR
STRENGTHENING OLD TIES--PRESIDENT FORD".

TV AND RADIO COVERAGE: KARACHI TV SATELLITED BHUTTO'S
DINNER SHOWING BHUTTO, ROCKEFELLER SPEECHES
(FILM TO BE SHOWN OTHER STATIONS SATURDAY NIGHT).
RADIO, TV NEWSCAST STRESSED BHUTTO DINNER REMARK
"MY WASHINGTON VISIT HAS BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, USEFUL
AND CONSTRUCTIVE".

RADIO SATURDAY MORNING DEVOTED MOST OF ITS NATIONWIDE
NEWSCAST TO COMMUNIQUE WITH POSITIVE OVERTONES.
EDITORIAL COMMENTS: INDEPENDENT NAWA-I-WAQT, JANG AND
PEOPLES PARTY DAILY MUSAWAAT COMMENTED ON BHUTTO VISIT
FOCUSSING ON ARMS QUESTION.

NAWA-I-WAQT SAID QUOTE "PREMIER BHUTTO HAS APPRISED
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U.S. LEADERS OF PAKISTAN'S DEFENCE REQUIREMENTS. THOUGH NO DEFINITE PROMISE HAS BEEN GIVEN IN THIS REGARD, U.S. HAS ALSO NOT REPLIED IN NEGATIVE AND THIS QUESTION IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. U.S. IS PAKISTAN'S ALLY IN BILATERAL AND COLLECTIVE SECURITY PACTS. PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN ARE JUSTIFIED IN COMPLAINING THAT U.S. BETRAYED IN TIME OF NEED. U.S. CAN WIN BACK FRIENDSHIP OF PAKISTANIS BY RESUMING ARMS AID. U.S. NEEDS THIS FRIENDSHIP BADLY FOR PROTECTING ITS INTERESTS IN MIDEAST AND GULF AREA (AND INDIAN OCEAN). IF U.S. CONSIDERS PAKISTAN CORNERSTONE IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY, IT IS DUE TO PAKISTAN'S GEOGRAPHICAL IMPORTANCE AND ITS PROXIMITY TO MIDEAST AND GULF AREA. KEEPING IN VIEW POLICY U.S. IS PURSUING TOWARD INDIA AND EFFORTS IT IS MAKING TO BRING INDIA OUT OF SOVIET SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, WE SHOULD NOT HOPE THAT PAKISTAN WILL GET AS MUCH MILITARY AID AS ISRAEL GETS." UNQUOTE.

JANG SAID QUOTE "U.S. COOPERATION FOR SOLVING PAKISTAN FOOD PROBLEM IS VERY VALUABLE. BUT MORE IMPORTANT THAN FOOD IS THE PROBLEM OF ARMS SUPPLIES TO ENABLE IT TO DEFEND ITS FRONTIERS AT TIMES OF NEED. PAK STAND ON ARMS HAS FROM THE START BEEN EXTREMELY JUST AND REASONABLE, AND ITS REASONABLENESS HAS BECOME MORE VIVID IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES OBTAINING IN THE SUBCONTINENT. CHANGED CONDITIONS IN THIS AREA LEAVE NO REASON FOR AMERICAN APPREHENSIONS REGARDING ARMS RACE. IF U.S. SUPPLIES ARMS TO PAKISTAN, PEACE IN NO WAY WILL BE HARMED. THERE IS ALSO NO REASON FOR ANY APPREHENSION REGARDING INDO-PAK RELATIONS. UNDER THE SIMLA AGREEMENT, MUCH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AND OTHER PROBLEMS INCLUDING KASHMIR CAN WELL BE DISCUSSED. IF PAKISTAN ACHIEVES DEFENDABLE DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY, THE CONDITIONS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENTS OF DISPUTES THROUGH TALKS WILL BECOME MORE FAVORABLE. A WEAKER PAKISTAN CAN WELL PROVIDE THE COURAGE TO INDIA OF VIOLATING AGREEMENTS. SO, U.S. SHOULD SUPPLY ITS DEFENSE NEEDS AND ENABLE IT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ANY POWERFUL COUNTRY'S AGGRESSION." UNQUOTE. MUSAWAAT: OBSERVED, QUOTE "PREMIER BHUTTO HAS APPRISED U.S. LEADERS OF PAKISTAN'S POINT OF VIEW ON VARIOUS PROBLEMS. AS FAR AS PAKISTAN'S DEFENCE REQUIREMENTS UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE CONCERNED, U.S. LEADERS ARE READY TO CONSIDER

LIFTING OF ARMS EMBARGO AND FOR PRESENT IT CAN BE
TERMED AS CLEAR STEP TOWARD MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. SINCE
U.S. CONSIDERS PAKISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE IMPORTANT PART OF
ITS FOREIGN POLICY, ONE SHOULD HOPE U.S. WILL REVISE ITS
POLICY ON ARMS SUPPLY. PREMIER BHUTTO HAS MADE CLEAR
THAT PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR POLICY DEPENDS ON U.S. REPLY.
IF PAKISTAN'S DEFENCE REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT MET WITH
MODERN U.S. ARMS, PAKISTAN WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE
BUT TO FORMULATE ITS ATOMIC PROGRAM KEEPING IN VIEW
ITS DEFENCE NEEDS. PREMIER BHUTTO'S U.S. VISIT HAS
MADE IT CLEAR U.S. LEADERS HAVE FULLY REALIZED THIS
SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF U.S., AS FRIEND OF PAKISTAN,
SELLING ARMS TO PAKISTAN HAVE BRIGHTENED." UNQUOTE
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED