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RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 7662  
RUSESD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 1076  
RUSLKA/AMEMBASSY KARUL PRIORITY 0601  
RUSPAF/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1556  
RUCMNA/AMEMBASSY USNATO 7002  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 21969

E.O. 12958: XDS 13 SEPT 1985 (TOON, M.) OR-N

TAGS: PEPR, AF, UR

SUBJECT: (U) TARAKI VISIT TO MOSCOW

REFS: (A) FEIS WASHDC 122305Z SEP 79, (D) MOSCOW 14964

1. (LOW) JUDGING FROM TARAKI'S HIGHLY VISIBLE BUT FAIRLY SPARSELY REPORTED SEPTEMBER 9-11 STOPOVER IN MOSCOW, THE AFGHAN LEADER OBTAINED AN AUTHOPITATIVE REAFFIRMATION OF THE SOVIET COMMITMENT TO AID "THE AFGHAN PEOPLE". THERE ARE INDICATORS, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS ALSO SOME DISAGREEMENT ON BILATERAL MATTERS.

2. (LOW) THE ONLY ANNOUNCED MEETING WAS ONE WITH BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO ON SEPTEMBER 10. THE "TASS" REPORT ON THAT MEETING:

1-- REFERRED TO THE SOVIET-AFGHAN FRIENDSHIP TREATY (BUT NOT SPECIFICALLY TO ITS MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROVISIONS) IN CITING THE COMMITMENT OF BOTH SIDES TO DEVELOP BILATERAL RELATIONS IN ALL AREAS;

2-- SAID THAT BREZHNEV ASSURED TARAKI THAT IN THEIR JUST STRUGGLE WITH IMPERIALIST AND REACTIONARY FORCES, THE FRIENDLY AFGHAN PEOPLE CAN CONTINUE TO COUNT ON THE COMPREHENSIVE AND UNSELFISH ASSISTANCE OF THE SOVIET UNION;

3-- SAID THAT THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN A CORDIAL, COMRADELY ATMOSPHERE;

4-- SAID THAT THERE WAS "COMPLETE UNANIMITY OF VIEWS" DURING THE DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS (BUT DID NOT USE THIS FORMULATION WITH RESPECT TO THE DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS).

5. (LOW) THE "TASS" REPORT ON TARAKI'S SEPTEMBER 11 DEPARTURE STATEMENT ADDS TO THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS SOME DISAGREEMENT. TARAKI SAID THAT HIS MEETING WITH BREZHNEV WAS "HIGHLY USEFUL" AND THAT THEY DISCUSSED MATTERS OF INTEREST "IN A FRANK, FRATERNAL ATMOSPHERE".

6. (C) COMMENT: AS IN BREZHNEV'S JUNE 11 STATEMENT ON AFGHANISTAN (REF 2), THE SOVIET COMMITMENT OF ASSISTANCE WAS VAGUE AND WAS DIRECTED TO THE "AFGHAN PEOPLE" RATHER THAN TO THE DRA. THE FULL PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE ON SOVIET TV AND IN THE CENTRAL PRESS OF TARAKI AND BREZHNEV IN AMIABLE DISCUSSION MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED, HOWEVER, TO DEMONSTRATE AT A MINIMUM THAT TARAKI HIMSELF STILL ENJOYS TOP-LEVEL SOVIET SUPPORT.  
TOON