

## Department of State

TELEGRAM

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DRAFTED BY:NEA/INC:QUAINTON
APPROVED BY:NEA:SISCO
NEA:VANHOLLEN
S/S:MILLER

P 141848Z DEC 71
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
CINCPAC
CINCSTRIKE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL DACCA
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EXDIS

SUBJ: CARRIER DEPLOYMENT IN INDIAN OCEAN

INDIAN AMBASSADORI JHA CALLED AT HIS REQUEST ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO TO EXPRESS GOT CONCERNOVER REPORTED US DEPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR CARRIER IN INDIAN OCEAN FOR EVACUATION PURPOSES. AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED BY FIRST SECRETARY VERMA: VAN HOLLEN, SCHNEIDER AND QUAINTON PRESENT FROM NEA.

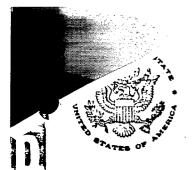
2. JHA SAID HE WISHED TO RAISE SUBJECT WHICH HAS ARISEN OUT OF HIS TALKS WITH UNDER SECRETARY IRWIN. UNDER SECRETARY HAD, HE SAID, INFORMED HIM THAT HELICOPTERS HAD BEEN PRE-POSITIONED IN: THAILAND FOR EVAUCATION PURPOSES. IMPRESSION WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED WAS THAT THEY WERE IN BANGKOK. HOWEVER, SUBSEQUENT REPORTS INDICATE THAT HELICOPTERS: WERE ON

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NUCLEAR-POWERED AIRCRAFT CARRIER, EQUIPPED WITH "ALLIKINDS OF DEVICES AND GADGETS". IN EARLIER CONVERSATIONS JHA SAID HE HAD TRIED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT 301 ANXIOUS. TO HELP IN EVACUATION OF FOREIGN PERSONNEL AND HAD MADE EVERY FACILITY AVAILABLE FOR THAT PURPOSE. GOI IS AS ANXIOUS AS BEFORE TO INSURE SAFETY OF PERSONNEL IN DACCA OR THEIR EVACUATION IF NECESSARY. IN VIEW OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER REPORT, GOI HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO SEEK ASSURANCE FROM USG THAT THERE WILL BE NO EVACUATION OPERATION WITHOUT PRIOR AGREEMENT WITH GOI OR BY FORCE.

- 3. SISCO SAID HE WOULD REPORT WHAT JHA HAD SAID, BUT HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO DECEMBER 13 STATEMENT BY SECRETARY LAIRD RE AIRCRAFT CARRIER. HE SAID HET WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH IF HE HAD ANYTHING TO ADD.
- 4. JHA SAID HE HAD ALSO A REPORT FROM NEW DELHI THAT USG HAD SOME PLAN OR INTENTION TO ESTABLISH A BEACHHEAD IN SOME PART OF BANGLA DESH FOR EVACUATION OF US PERSONNEL OR TO FACILITATE TRANSFER OF PAKISTANI PERSONNEL TO WEST PAKISTAN. ANY SUCH ATTEMPT WOULD BE A VERY SERIOUS MATTER AND WOULD ENDANGER LONG-TERM INDO-US RELATIONS. IT MIGHT ALSO HAVE OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND IN ANY EVENT WOULD NOT HAVE EFFECT OF BRINGING CONFLICT TO SPEEDY END.
- 5. SISCO SAID HE HAD SEEN REPORT: WHILE HE WAS PERSONALLY NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH PLAN, HE WOULD TAKE NOTE OF AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS AND IF HE HAD ANYTHING FURTHER WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH. SISCO SAID HE FELT CONSTRAINED TO SAY, IN VIEW OF JHA'S MENTION OF POSSIBLE IMPACT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, THAT, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT WISH TO GO INTO PAST HISTORY, WE DO SEE IN SOI'S ACTIONS THINGS WHICH NOT ONLY REFLECT PRESENT STRAINS IN OUR RELATIONS BUT ALSO WHICH DEVIOUSLY COULD HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR LONG-TERM RELATIONS, WHICH BOTH SIDES WILL BE LOOKING AT IN THE FUTURE. IRWIN