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USIA

USIA FOR P/M, P/G, P/RM, P/F, P/P, VOA NEWS/CA, NEA

STATE FOR NEA/PAB

AID FOR ANE, XA, FVA, OFDA MARY LITTLE; AND M/FM/PAFD

MILITARY ADDRESSEES FOR USIA ADVISOR

E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: U.S.RELIEF EFFORTS MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

1. (BEGIN SUMMARY) AMBASSADOR DE PREE'S PRESS BRIEFING LED PRESS PLAY ALONG WITH PROMINENT COVERAGE OF USAID DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR MORRIS' INTERVIEW WITH OFFICIAL BANGLADESH NEWS AGENCY CORRESPONDENT, MORRIS' VOA BANGLA SERVICE INTERVIEW, AND REPORTAGE OF FURTHER STATEMENTS BY CONGRESSMEN JIM MOODY, TONY HALL, AND EDOLPHUS "ED" TOWNS IN SUPPORT OF BANGLADESH. THE CBS MORNING SERIES ON BANGLADESH WAS ALSO REPORTED AS WAS SIGNING OF \$500,000 USAID EMERGENCY MEDICAL RELIEF SUPPLIES COMMODITY GRANT AGREEMENT IN DHAKA. GOVT.-RUN BANGLADESH TIMES CITED MORRIS' TESTIMONY TO THE CONGRESS IN EDIT "IN SUPPORT OF REGIONALISM", AND INDEPENDENT DAILY "AZAD" EDIT COMMENTED THAT STATEMENTS BY HALL AND DE PREE (REFTEL DHAKA 8392) SUPPORTING A REGIONAL APPROACH TO THE FLOOD PROBLEM WERE VERY SIGNIFICANT FOR BANGLADESH. (END SUMMARY)

2. AMBASSADOR DE PREE'S PRESS BRIEFING OCT. 18 BEFORE THE OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESH RECEIVED TOP MEDIA COVERAGE. INDEPENDENT WEEKLY DHAKA COURIER RAN REPORT "U.S. TO SUPPORT REGIONAL APPROACH IN FLOOD CONTROL" DRAWING UPON AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS AND ALSO ON CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY OF USAID DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR JAY MORRIS. PRO-ISLAMIC "AZAD" EDIT COMMENTED OCT. 20 (QUOTE) THE EMPHASIS PLACED BY MR. WILLARD A. DE PREE, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH, ON A REGIONAL APPROACH TO THE SOLUTION OF THE FLOOD PROBLEM IS ALSO VERY SIGNIFICANT... MANY TIMES IN THE PAST MANY REGIONAL PROBLEMS REMAINED UNSOLVED DUE TO LACK OF GOODWILL AMONG THE REGIONAL #OUNTRIES. WE BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. CAN EXERT HER INFLUENCE IN CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT OF GOODWILL ON THE ISSUE OF FLOOD CONTROL IN THIS REGION...

Rep Moody
Rep Hall, Tony
Rep Towns

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(UNQUOTE). "AZAD" ALSO TERMED CONGRESSMAN TONY HALL'S CALL FOR U.S. LEADERSHIP "SIGNIFICANT AND TIMELY".

3. CONGRESSMAN TONY HALL'S STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF BANGLADESH DISASTER ASSISTANCE WAS FIRST LEAD IN MANY PAPERS OCT. 19. RULING JATIYA PARTY "DAINIK JANATA" RAN STORY UNDER HEADLINE "U.S. HAS TO LEAD IN SOLVING THE FLOOD PROBLEM". INDEPENDENT "DAILY NEWS" FIRST LEAD RAN "U.S. URGED TO LEAD GLOBAL MOVE FOR CHECKING FLOODS".

4. MORRIS' WASHINGTON VOA BANGLA SERVICE INTERVIEW, AS CIRCULATED BY GOVERNMENT NEWS SERVICE (BSS), WAS WIDELY CARRIED BY NEWSPAPERS OCT. 18. "JANATA" FIRST LEAD HEADING WAS "REGIONAL COOPERATION A MUST FOR FLOOD CONTROL -- MORRIS: INTERVIEW WITH VOICE OF AMERICA". ALL OTHER PAPERS USED THE STORY ON FRONT PAGES. BSS ALSO CARRIED OCT. 18 CONGRESSMAN JIM MOODY'S HOUSE STATEMENTS ON BANGLADESH. TYPICAL HEAD WAS ENGLISH "NEW NATION"'S "U.S. CONGRESSMAN'S CALL TO EXPEDITE AID TO BANGLADESH.

5. MORRIS WAS AGAIN FEATURED IN ANOTHER FRONT PAGE STORY IN ALL PAPERS OCTOBER 23. TALKING TO A BSS SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON, MORRIS NARRATED ONCE MORE HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE FLOOD DEVASTATION. GOVERNMENT-RUN "BANGLADESH TIMES" TWO-COLUMN HEADLINE FOR THE STORY WAS "FLOOD DAMAGE TOO GREAT, SAYS MORRIS".

6. BANGLADESH MEDIA RAN OCT. 25 BSS STORY ON ASSURANCES BY CONGRESSMAN EDOLPHUS "ED" TOWNS, AS CONVEYED IN A RECENT LETTER TO PRESIDENT ERSHAD. BSS REPORTS THE CONGRESSMAN, "AS A FRIEND OF THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH IN THE U.S. CONGRESS", PLEDGED HIS WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT TO U.S. RELIEF EFFORTS. TOWNS TOLD HE WOULD MONITOR ISSUES OF INTEREST TO BANGLADESH IN TERMS OF FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL, AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. MAJOR DAILIES INCLUDING LEADING DAILY "ITTEFAQ" CARRIED ITEM FIRST PAGE.

7. USIS RELEASE ON USAID COMMODITY GRANT AGREEMENT SIGNED OCT. 24 WITH INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR DIARRHEAL DISEASE RESEARCH OF BANGLADESH (ICDDR) FOR \$500,000 IN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPLIES WAS CARRIED BY ALL PAPERS OCT. 25.

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PEPPERS
END OF MESSAGE

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