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FOR NEA, P/M, P/RM, P/FW, P/F, P/P, VOA NEWS/CA
USIA PASS SGAC ATTN: R. RYDELL
STATE FOR NEA/INS
STATE FOR NSC
USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/ANESA/OSA

E.O. 12356: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT NO. 185

- BEGIN SUMMARY: SEPTEMBER 24 PRO-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL HERALD CARRIED A WASHINGTON REPORT SAYING SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLAIBORNE PELL REPORTEDLY HAS "PUT ASIDE" JOHN HUBBARD'S CONFIRMATION AS THE NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO INDIA. UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) STORIES FROM WASHINGTON FOCUSED ON: (1) AMBASSADOR P.K. KAUL'S LETTER TO SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY CONVEYING GOI'S OBJECTION TO THE U.S. LINKING INDIA'S UN VOTING RECORD TO INDO-U.S. RELATIONS; (2) USAID OFFER TO HELP SOUTH ASIAN FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAMS; AND (3) AMERICAN EXPERTS' CALL TO THE USG TO EVOLVE "INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING" FOR MORE AID TO INDIA AND THE THIRD WORLD. NEWS REPORTS SAW THE SHULTZ-SHEVARDNADZE WASHINGTON TALKS ENDING WITH "NO BREAKTHROUGHS ON MAJOR ISSUES" EXCEPT "SOME MINOR AGREEMENTS." AN ANALYSIS ON U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SPECULATED THAT VICE PRESIDENT BUSH'S PRESIDENTIAL VICTORY WOULD LIKELY LEAD TO "A FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS." AFGHANISTAN PRESIDENT NAJIBULLAH IN AN INTERVIEW REPORTEDLY FAVORED A "BROAD-BASED COALITION GOVERNMENT" IN KABUL AND ALSO SPOKE OF AN "IMPERIALIST INTRIGUE" AGAINST INDIA. FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO INDIA JOHN GALBRAITH'S LECTURE TO THE HARVARD CLUB OF DELHI RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PRESS PLAY. PEPSICO'S PUNJAB PROJECT DREW MIXED COMMENTS. END SUMMARY.

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- HUBBARD'S CONFIRMATION AS AMBASSADOR TO INDIA

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- PEPSICO'S PUNJAB PROJECT

- SEPTEMBER 26 PRO-MOSCOW PATRIOT CARRIED THREE ARTICLES HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE GOI APPROVAL OF THE PEPSICO PROJECT FOR PUNJAB AS REFLECTED IN THESE HEADLINES, "HIGH CHIPS FOR PEPSI FIZZ," "BAFFLING SOMERSAULT," AND "'PEPSICOLIZATION'." THE THRUST OF THESE ARTICLES WAS THAT PEPSICO HAS NO "RECOGNIZED EXPERTISE" IN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, THAT IT WAS INVOLVED IN PLOTTING AGAINST ALLENDE'S GOVERNMENT, AND THAT THE GOI'S DECISION WAS "POLITICALLY MOTIVATED."

- --BENGALI-LANGUAGE GANASHAKTI OF CALCUTTA EDITORIALY CRITICIZED THE PROJECT, ALLEGING PEPSI IS CIA'S "PROXY ORGANIZATION" AND THAT THE MOVE WILL "UNNECESSARILY...HAND OVER THE AGRO-ECONOMY OF INDIA TO A FOREIGN POWER."

- --MEANWHILE, THE SUNDAY OBSERVER OF BOMBAY AND UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 05 NEW DELHI 24258

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DELHI CARRIED A STAFFER SHIRISH NADKARNI VIEW THAT THE PEPSICO PROJECT "DESERVES A FAIR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE GOOD." NADKARNI ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE PROJECT IS A BLUEPRINT FOR THE GOI'S "LIBERALIZATION POLICY FOR THE INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE." BALDYGA
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 - U.S. HELP FOR SOUTH ASIA FLOOD CONTROL

- MAJOR PAPERS CARRIED A UNI WASHINGTON REPORT ON U.S. HELP IN SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE GANGA-BRAHMAPUTRA BASIN UNDER SUCH TYPICAL HEADLINES, "U.S. OFFER ON GANGA WATER MANAGEMENT" (THE ECONOMIC TIMES) AND "GANGA-BRAHMAPUTRA BASIN: USA TO HELP CONTROL FLOODS" (FINANCIAL EXPRESS).

- UNI, IN PART, SAID: "THE UNITED STATES IS READY TO JOIN OTHER DONOR NATIONS IN SUPPORTING INDIA, BANGLADESH, NEPAL, BHUTAN AND CHINA TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE GANGA-BRAHMAPUTRA BASIN TO REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF FLOODS IN EASTERN INDIA AND BANGLADESH.

- "THE U.S. OFFER WAS MADE BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ITS AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MR. JAY F. MORRIS, ON FRIDAY, BEFORE THE CONGRESS SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS. THE COMMITTEE APPROVED A BILL ASKING THE ADMINISTRATION TO DRAW UP A REPORT ANALYZING THE POTENTIAL COSTS, TECHNOLOGY OBSTACLES AND THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN THE WAY OF EFFECTIVE FLOOD CONTROL IN THE GANGA AND BRAHMAPUTRA BASINS."

- U.S. AID TO INDIA

- NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS SEPTEMBER 24 RAN A UNI WASHINGTON STORY ON A STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY UNDER SUCH HEADLINES AS "MORE U.S. AID FOR INDIA SOUGHT" (THE STATESMAN); "U.S. EXPERTS FOR MORE AID TO INDIA" ("INDIAN EXPRESS"); AND "U.S. URGED TO WORK FOR BETTER WORLD" (THE HINDU).

- IN PART, UNI SAID: "SOME LEADING U.S. EXPERTS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE VIRTUAL ABSENCE OF U.S. AID PROGRAMS IN INDIA AND CALLED UPON THE ADMINISTRATION HERE TO EVOLVE SOME 'INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING, INCLUDING COOPERATION OR MUTUAL GAINS' TO REVERSE THIS TREND IN THE OVERALL INTEREST OF DEMOCRACY.

- "THEIR OPINION FORMED PART OF A REPORT RELEASED HERE YESTERDAY OF A YEAR-LONG PROJECT INITIATED BY MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, EXAMINING U.S. PROGRAMS AND POLICIES TOWARD THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT, INVOLVING 800 EXPERTS.

- "'WE HAVE PRACTICALLY NO PROGRAMS IN INDIA... THE NET FLOW OF AID RESOURCES IS NEGATIVE DUE TO INDIA'S REPAYMENT OF PAST AID LOANS. THIS IS INAPPROPRIATE,' THE REPORT OBSERVES."

- --ACCORDING TO R. CHAKRAPANI'S WASHINGTON REPORT IN THE HINDU, THE STUDY URGES "THE CREATION OF A WHITE HOUSE-LED COUNCIL TO COORDINATE U.S. AGENCY ACTIONS AND POLICIES. THE NEW U.S. PRESIDENT SHOULD MEET KEY THIRD WORLD LEADERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS THIRD WORLD PROBLEMS. THE AUTHORS OF THE REPORT BELIEVE THAT THIS UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 05 NEW DELHI 24258

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COULD PAVE THE WAY FOR A WIDER NORTH-SOUTH SUMMIT
MEETING."

- SHULTZ-SHEVARDNADZE'S TALKS

- MAJOR NEWSPAPERS CARRIED DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF PTI AND UNI WASHINGTON STORIES ON THE OUTCOME OF SECSTATE SHULTZ-SOVIET FM SHEVARDNADZE'S TWO-DAY MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON AS REFLECTED IN SUCH HEADLINES AS "USA AND USSR LIKELY TO SIGN N-TREATIES" (THE STATESMAN); "NO ACHIEVEMENTS IN SUPERPOWERS' MEET" (PATRIOT); AND "U.S., USSR TALKS END WITHOUT MUCH RESULT" (THE TIMES OF INDIA).

- ACCORDING TO THE PTI, THE TALKS ENDED WITH "STATEMENTS LONG ON RHETORIC AND SHORT ON ACHIEVEMENTS." UNI, HOWEVER, NOTED THE TWO COUNTRIES MAY SIGN NEW VERIFICATION PROTOCOLS FOR THE PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS TREATY AND THE THRESHOLD TEST BAN TREATY BEFORE PRESIDENT REAGAN QUITS OFFICE IN JANUARY."

- --THE HINDUSTAN TIMES RAN N.C. MENON'S VIEW FROM WASHINGTON THAT THE TALKS ENDED WITH "NO BREAKTHROUGHS ON MAJOR ISSUES." THE DISPATCH, HEADLINED "NO BREAKTHROUGH IN BIG-2 TALKS," SAID IN PART: "THERE WERE SOME AGREEMENTS. THE SOVIETS, FOR INSTANCE, AGREED TO STOP ENCODING THEIR BALLISTIC MISSILES TESTING DATA--A LONG-STANDING IRRITANT--IF THE U.S. AGREED TO END ENCODING OF CRUISE MISSILE TESTING DATA. SUCH A MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION."

- ELECTION '88

- THE INDIAN EXPRESS ED-PAGED AN ANALYSIS, "BUSH, DUKAKIS AND SOUTH ASIA," CONTRIBUTED BY AMIT GUPTA, A RESEARCHER AT THE OFFICE OF ARMS CONTROL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA. IT IS UNDER THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION, HE OBSERVED, THAT INDO-U.S. TIES "HAVE IMPROVED AFTER THE CHILLINESS OF THE SEVENTIES AND EARLY EIGHTIES. BY ALL ACCOUNTS, BUSH WILL CONTINUE THE RAPPROCHEMENT WITH INDIA. ACCORDING TO STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES, BUSH HAS A SPECIAL INTEREST IN INDIA AND ONE OF HIS ADVISERS HAS PAID A NUMBER OF VISITS TO INDIA IN THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS. IF BUSH GETS ELECTED THERE IS LIKELY TO BE A FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS. DUKAKIS, ON THE OTHER HAND, MAY PROVE TO BE A BIT OF A PROBLEM FOR NEW DELHI BECAUSE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S STAND ON THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUE."

- GUPTA CONCLUDED: "THE RACE FOR THE PRESIDENCY WILL BE A CLOSE ONE BECAUSE NEITHER CANDIDATE HAS A CLEAR EDGE OVER THE OTHER. IF BUSH WINS, INDIA CAN EXPECT THE USUAL UPS AND DOWNS IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS. HOWEVER, SHOULD DUKAKIS WIN, U.S. FOREIGN POLICY WILL BE GENERALLY MORE PLEASING TO INDIA. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO PARTICULARS SUCH AS THE NUCLEAR ISSUE, ONE CAN EXPECT IMPEDIMENTS IN THE PATH OF FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS."

- AFGHANISTAN

- SEVERAL PAPERS CARRIED A PTI REPORT, ATTRIBUTED TO THE NEW YORK TIMES, THAT THE U.S. HAS APPOINTED EDMOND MCWILLIAMS, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IN PAKISTAN, AS A SPECIAL ENVOY TO ADVISE THE AFGHAN GUERRILLAS, WHO HAVE BEEN TOLD BY WASHINGTON "NOT TO ATTACK SOVIET FORCES PULLING OUT OF AFGHANISTAN."

- THE HINDUSTAN TIMES FRONT-PAGED COLUMNIST RAJENDRA SAREEN'S INTERVIEW WITH AFGHAN PRESIDENT NAJIBULLAH UNDER THE HEADLINE, "NAJIBULLAH RULES OUT NEUTRAL

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 GOVERNMENT. THE ARTICLE SAID IN PART: "IN A WIDE-RANGING EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW, DR. NAJIBULLAH ARGUED THAT THE RESTORATION OF THE STATUS QUO OF 10 YEARS AGO WAS NO LONGER FEASIBLE BECAUSE 'THE AFGHAN SOCIETY HAS UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 05 NEW DELHI 24258

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POLARIZED LEAVING NO NEUTRALS.' THEREFORE, HE FAVORED A BROAD-BASED COALITION GOVERNMENT 'OF ALL THOSE FORCES WHO HAVE A COMMON INTEREST IN PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY'...

- "THE AFGHAN PRESIDENT SPOKE OF AN 'IMPERIALIST INTRIGUE' AGAINST INDIA AS A RESULT OF WHICH 'THERE IS A MOVE TO MOBILIZE REACTIONARY FORCES IN PREPARATION FOR THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION.' ACCORDING TO HIM, THE EXTREMISTS' FIGHTING IN AFGHANISTAN, A REACTIONARY PAKISTAN AND A FUNDAMENTALIST IRAN ARE ALL PARTS OF THE 'IMPERIALIST INTRIGUE'."

- --MEANWHILE, AFGHANISTAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA ABDUL SAMAD AZHAR, IN A PRESS CONFERENCE, ACCUSED PAKISTAN, AIDED BY THE U.S., OF INJECTING "NEW DIMENSIONS" IN THEIR "INTERFERENCES AND INTERVENTIONS" IN AFGHANISTAN'S AFFAIRS THROUGH THE MUJAHIDEEN. HE ALSO ACCUSED THE U.S. "OF ENCOURAGING THE MUJAHIDEEN TO STEP UP THEIR ACTIVITY EVEN AFTER ZIA'S DEATH."

- --IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, DEFENSE MINISTER K.C. PANT, INAUGURATING AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON AFGHANISTAN, STATED THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS FULFILLING HER OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE GENEVA AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN AND THAT IT "WOULD BE A GREAT MISTAKE TO TRY TO FOIST A GOVERNMENT ON THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN IN THE NAME OF ISLAM OR ANY OTHER SLOGAN OR DOGMA, AS THIS COULD ONLY PROLONG THE CRISIS IN THAT COUNTRY" (THE HINDUSTAN TIMES).

- PROF. GALBRAITH'S INDIA VISIT

- FORMER AMBASSADOR JOHN GALBRAITH'S LECTURE TO THE HARVARD CLUB OF DELHI, ON CAPITALISM AND SOCIALISM IN TRANSITION, RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PRESS ATTENTION. SAMPLE HEADLINES: "'WAR OF IDEOLOGIES WANING'" (THE ECONOMIC TIMES); "'N-THREAT TO U.S., USSR COMMON'" (NATIONAL HERALD); AND "NEED FOR PEOPLE'S SAY IN GOVERNMENT: GALBRAITH" (INDIAN EXPRESS).

- --NEWS REPORTS INCLUDED GALBRAITH'S OBSERVATIONS ON U.S.-INDIA RELATIONS STATING THEY "DO NOT DEPEND ON A HANDFUL OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN EITHER COUNTRY. IT IS A PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE RELATIONSHIP. THE REALITY IS THAT AMERICANS HAVE A GREAT AND ENDURING INTEREST IN INDIA. ITS ART AND ARCHITECTURE, ITS ECONOMIC LIFE AND EVERYTHING ELSE" (THE HINDUSTAN TIMES).

- --PRO-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL HERALD PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW WITH GALBRAITH IN WHICH HE COMMENTED THAT PM GANDHI "GOVERNS A VERY COMPLEX, DIFFICULT AND WONDERFULLY ASSERTIVE DEMOCRACY. I THINK HE DOES IT VERY WELL." THE INTERVIEW WAS HEADLINED, "'RAJIV DOES IT VERY WELL.'"

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- AN ASIA INTERNATIONAL NEWS (ANI) WASHINGTON REPORT ON SENATE CONFIRMATION OF PROFESSOR JOHN HUBBARD AS AMBASSADOR TO INDIA WAS PICKED UP BY PRO-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL HERALD UNDER A TWO-COLUMN HEADLINE, "APPOINTMENT OF U.S. ENVOY SET ASIDE." ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLAIBORNE PELL "PUT ASIDE CONFIRMATION OF THE RECENTLY NOMINATED NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO INDIA MR. JOHN HUBBARD."

- THE REPORT NOTED THAT THE SENATE ON SEPTEMBER 23 CONSIDERED OTHER AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS, INCLUDING SCHEDULING THE CONFIRMATION VOTE FOR THE "RECESS APPOINTEE" AMBASSADOR OAKLEY TO PAKISTAN FOR SEPTEMBER 27. IT CONCLUDED: "...WHEN SENATORS HELMS AND BOSCHWITZ MENTIONED...HUBBARD'S CONFIRMATION AND VOTE, SENATOR PELL DECIDED AGAINST TAKING IT UP. THE POLITICAL APPOINTMENT THUS 'MAY WELL HAVE FALLEN THROUGH CONSIDERING LACK OF TIME,' AN AIDE TO A COMMITTEE MEMBER SAID. AND SENATORS HAVE STILL SEVEN APPROPRIATIONS TO PUSH THROUGH FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN'S SIGNATURE."

- INDIA'S UN VOTING AND INDO-U.S. RELATIONS

- VIRTUALLY ALL LEADING PAPERS SEPTEMBER 26 CARRIED A PTI WASHINGTON STORY BASED ON AMBASSADOR P.K. KAUL'S LETTER TO SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY, ASKING U.S. TO DELINK DELHI'S UN VOTING FROM INDO-U.S. BILATERAL RELATIONS. SAMPLE HEADLINES: "VOTING IN UN: INDIA OBJECTS TO U.S. LINKAGE WITH TIES" (PRO-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL HERALD); "INDIA OBJECTS TO U.S. LINKING UN VOTE," TIES (THE HINDUSTAN TIMES); AND "INDIA ASKS U.S. TO DELINK UN VOTING WITH TIES" (PATRIOT).

- PTI, IN PART, SAID: "INDIA HAS CONVEYED TO THE UNITED STATES ITS OBJECTION TO THE LINKING OF ITS VOTING AT THE UNITED NATIONS TO INDO-U.S. BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE LINKAGE RUNS COUNTER TO INDIA'S NON-ALIGNED POLICY. INDIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, PRATAP K. KAUL, HAS SAID..."

- "MR. KAUL TOLD THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THAT INDIA HAD RESERVATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF LINKING THE VOTING RECORD TO BILATERAL TIES. THE FORMAT OF THE REPORT (TO CONGRESS) GAVE A DISTORTED PICTURE, HE TOLD U.S. UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 05 NEW DELHI 24258

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- "MOVES ARE NOW UNDERWAY IN CONGRESS TO GET THE FORMAT OF THE REPORT AMENDED. THE PRIME MOVER IN THIS REGARD IS SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY.

- "IN A LETTER TO MR. KENNEDY, MR. KAUL RECALLED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR 1988 ON INDIA'S VOTING PATTERNS ON ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY WASHINGTON AS 'KEY' ITEMS HAD SAID THAT INDIA HAD VOTED THE SAME WAY AS THE U.S. 8.4 PERCENT TIMES. AN INDIAN ANALYSIS OF THE COMPATIBILITY FIGURES FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES ON RESOLUTIONS IN THE UN THAT WERE VOTED UPON PUT THIS PERCENTAGE AT 11.42."

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