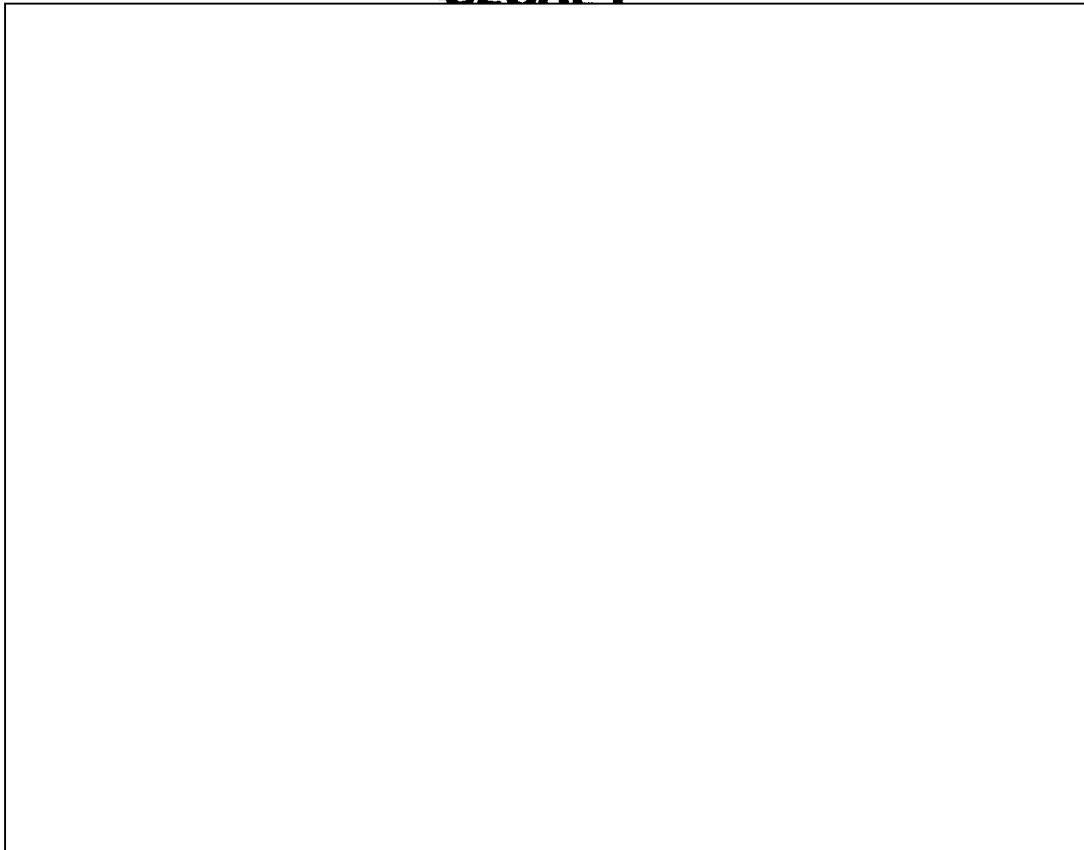


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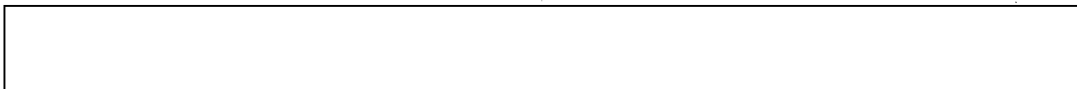
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SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST BRIEF OCPAS MEA 87-213 FOR 12 SEPTEMBER 1987.

FROM: DD1/O/CPAS.

CONTENTS

1. AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN-USSR: LETDOWN AT GENEVA



1. AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN-USSR: LETDOWN AT GENEVA

KABUL'S FAILURE TO OFFER A SIGNIFICANTLY SHORTER TIMETABLE FOR WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS AT THE LATEST UN-MEDIATED NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, WHICH ENDED THURSDAY, IS LIKELY TO SET BACK MOSCOW'S CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE SUPPORT FOR THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE AT THE UN. [REDACTED]

THE AFGHANS OFFERED A 16-MONTH TIMETABLE, DOWN FROM 18 IN MARCH, BUT REFUSED TO GO FURTHER WHEN PAKISTAN RESPONDED BY RAISING ITS COUNTERPROPOSAL FROM SEVEN TO EIGHT MONTHS. STATEMENTS BY SOVIET OFFICIALS IN RECENT WEEKS HAD CREATED WIDESPREAD EXPECTATION THAT A SHARPLY REDUCED TIMETABLE WOULD BE OFFERED AT GENEVA--PROBABLY AROUND 12 MONTHS. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: THE SOVIETS PRESUMABLY INTENDED THAT KABUL'S REQUEST

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: SEP 2007



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[REDACTED]

FOR A NEW GENEVA SESSION CAP ITS CAMPAIGN TO COURT INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION BEFORE THE VOTE ON THE ANNUAL AFGHAN RESOLUTION IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS FALL. ISLAMABAD WILL CITE KABUL'S FAILURE TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH ON THE TIMETABLE--AN EXPECTATION THE SOVIETS THEMSELVES PROMOTED--TO COUNTER MOSCOW'S EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THOSE WHO DOUBTED KABUL'S GOOD INTENTIONS, ALTHOUGH MOSCOW AND KABUL ARE STILL LIKELY TO REGISTER SOME GAINS.

MOSCOW MAY HAVE WANTED KABUL TO PROPOSE A 12-MONTH TIMETABLE BUT BECAME CONVINCED AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GENEVA RESUMPTION THAT THE AFGHAN REGIME COULD NOT SUSTAIN AN OFFER THAT PAKISTAN MIGHT ACCEPT. ALTERNATIVELY, THE SOVIETS MAY HAVE MISCALCULATED THAT WELL-FOUNDED RUMORS OF A 12-MONTH TIMETABLE WOULD INDUCE PAKISTAN TO MOVE ITS OWN OFFER CLOSE TO 12 MONTHS.

ISLAMABAD WOULD PROBABLY HAVE AGREED TO A 12-MONTH TIMETABLE BUT MAY HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO MAKE AN OFFER THAT WOULD ENDANGER US AID. ONCE THE AID ISSUE IS DECIDED, PAKISTAN MAY TRY TO USE A 12-MONTH OR SHORTER TIMETABLE TO PROD THE RESISTANCE INTO ACCEPTING COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN A COALITION.

[REDACTED]

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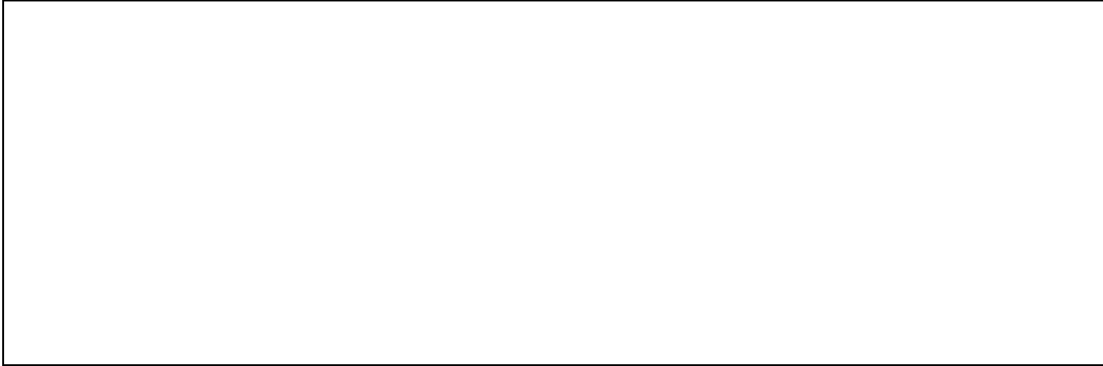
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