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PLEASE DELIVER TO BREMER/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

MAY 22, 1974

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

THE PRESIDENT MET WITH THE CENTO FOREIGN MINISTERS TODAY AND DELIVERED WHAT AMOUNTED TO A 45 MINUTE MONOLOGUE.

HE BEGAN BY DESCRIBING CENTO AS BEING CONSIDERED TO HAVE MUCH LESS MEANING TODAY THAN IN THE PERIOD DURING WHICH IT WAS FORMED. AS A MILITARY ALLIANCE, IT IS NOT VERY MUCH AND THE TURKS AND THE PAKISTANIS HAVE ON OCCASION WONDERED WHAT GOOD IT WAS WHEN THEY HAD A MILITARY PROBLEM OF THEIR OWN. BUT THE COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE HAVE COMMON INTERESTS THAT OVERRIDE THEIR VARIOUS MILITARY CONCERNS -- SUCH AS THE SURVIVAL OF PAKISTAN. THE STRENGTH AND ECONOMIC VITALITY OF THE CENTO COUNTRIES IS IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF THAT AREA OF THE WORLD. THE CENTO TREATY IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE STABLITTY OF THE AREA BECAUSE ITGIVES AN ADDED ELEMENT TO DISCOURAGE THOSE WHO MIGHT BE TEMPTED TOWARD ADVENTURISM.

THE PRESIDENT THEN BEGAN TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT EACH DE THE COUNTRIES, BUT NEVER GOT FURTHER THAN PAKISTAN. REGARDING PAKISTAN, HE SAID THAT, WITH DUE REGARD FOR CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS, WE WOULD DO WHATEVER WE COULD TO SUPPORT PAKISTAN. THERE HAD BEEN ONE PARTITION OF PAKISTAN AND THERE COULD BE NO MORE. TO THE EXTENT THAT THE U. S. REESTABLISHES A DIALOGUE WITH INDIA, OUR INFLUENCE WOULD BE TO RESTRAIN INDIA.

MORI/CDF C03345662

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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SECRETARY GENERAL ASSAR THEN THANKED THE PRESIDENT FOR MEETING WITH THE GROUP AND FOR HIS WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT. HE SAID THAT THE MINISTERS ARE AWARE, AS THE PRESIDENT HAD POINTED DUTA THAT THE SITUATION FOR CENTO HAD CHANGED GREATLY BUT THEY STILL THOUGHT THERE WAS A NEED FOR THE ALLIANCE AND HAD DISCUSSED IN THEIR MEETINGS TRACING A COURSE FOR THE FUTURE.

THE PRESIDENT RESPONDED TO ASSAR BY REVIEWING AGAIN THE CHANGES SINCE THE FOUNDING OF CENTO. HE THEN SHIFTED INTO HIS STANDARD RUNDOWN OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. NO SURPRISES.

FOLLOWING THAT THE PRESIDENT DISCUSSED THE PRAGMATIC NATURE OF OUR POLICY TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION, THE DIFFICULTIES OF SALT, ETC. -- ALL IN STANDARD TERMS. HE MOVED ON TO THE PRO AND TALKED ABOUT THE NEED FOR A DIALOGUE WITH THEM, THEIR INTEREST IN A STRONG U.S., AND THEIR RIVALRY WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

THE PRESIDENT THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE U.S. DIALOGUE WITH OUR POTENTIAL ENEMIES WAS IN SUPPORTION, NOT IN OPPOSITION TOP OUR FRIENDS. HE POINTED OUT IN CONCLUSION THAT THE MIDDLE EAST, AND EVEN MORE SO CENTRAL EUROPE, WERE VITAL AREAS FOR SUPER POWER RIVALRY. ALLIES AND FRIENDS MUST TRUST EACH OTHER IN THESE CRITICAL TIMES AND THE U.S. WOULD MAINTAIN ITS STRENGTH AND SUPPORT OF ITS FRIENDS.

AS THE GROUP WAS WALKING DUT, CALLAGHAN EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR A NATO DECLARATION AND A TRADE BILL. THE PRESIDENT DID NOT COMMENT ON THE NATO DECLARATION BUT SAID WE WOULD HAVE A TRADE BILL PROVIDED CONGRESS WAS REASONABLE AND AT A MINIMUM DID NOT CUT OFF CREDIT FOR THE SOVIET UNION.

AT LUNCH AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY FOLLOWING THE MEETING, CALLAGHAN REMARKED TO ME THAT HE THOUGHT THE PRESIDENT HAD PUT ON AN AMAZING PERFORMANCE. HE SAID HE WAS MOST IMPRESSED AT THE PRESIDENT'S INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITH ALL THE DIHER THINGS HE HAD ON HIS MIND.

WARM REGARDS.

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