

TO: HAASS

FROM: SCOWCROFT

DOC DATE: 08 JUN 89  
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: INDIA

MEMCON

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: TELCON BTW PRES & PM GANDHI ON JUN 8 RE SUPER 301 / PM BHUTTO VISIT

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ACTION: ~~ANY ACTION NECESSARY~~ DUE DATE: 29 JUN 89 STATUS: S  
 STAFF OFFICER: HAASS LOGREF: 8904390 8904872  
 FILES: PA NSCIF: CODES:

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D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION  
HAASS

FOR CONCURRENCE  
CHARLES

FOR INFO  
HILLIARD  
WELCH

COMMENTS: No Action Required - DOC # 4390 add-on - GANDI *MEMCON*

DISPATCHED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSGAD CLOSED BY: DOC 1 OF 1

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Presidential phone call to PM Gandhi, June 8, 1989

*Flomine -  
as requested.*

President -- Rajiv how are you?

*Sam  
Thanks (D)*

Prime Minister Gandhi -- Fine George, and you?

President -- I'm just fine, better now that I am talking to you. I hope my calling so late is not too inconvenient. What time is it there?

Prime Minister Gandhi -- About midnight.

President -- Oh gosh. I wanted to give you a fill on the Bhutto visit about how that visit went. I told her I would be calling you so this is not behind her back. We had a good discussion. There was some talks on South Asia security, so I told her I would call you. I also wanted a reason to talk with you after the Super 301 trade action. I know there are disagreements on both sides. Our people need to resolve it. But under existing law I had little choice. We don't want to exacerbate trade problems.

Prime Minister Gandhi -- I agree. We need to sit down and sort this out. One problem I have is elections coming up. I want you to understand because of this our public maneuverability will be much less than our internal maneuverability. We need you to be sensitive to this. Your people must understand about our elections.

President -- I want to be very sensitive to that and I will discuss this with the national security people and Jim Baker to insure anything that is done on the trade side would be constructive and sensitive to the political side.

Prime Minister -- Thank you.

President -- On the visit, Prime Minister Bhutto seemed to me, and I have met her once or twice before, to be both sincere and constructive in discussing her approach to India. She said she has a close relationship with you and that there is good chemistry between you. Her hopes are based on the civil way you have treated her.

Prime Minister -- Yes, thank you.

President -- She looks forward to the defense ministers meeting and is hopeful that an agreement can be reached on the Siachen Glacier.

Prime Minister -- I am having some difficulty with that.

President -- Can you hear me, I know this is not ...

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Prime Minister -- I can hear you very clearly.

President -- Oh, I see. It though you were have problems with the phone; you were referring to difficulties with the Siachen Glacier. We discussed the importance of avoiding a nuclear arms race in South Asia. You know we have some problems with Pakistan in dealing with the nuclear arms question. We had some very frank discussions about it and just for your own edification, she gave me her strong personal reassurance about Pakistan's unclear program that they do not intend to develop nuclear explosive devices. And she indicated that she is prepared to go further beyond the (no-attack) agreement with other reciprocal measures to curb proliferation and she repeated her interest in a nuclear test ban treaty if that appeals there.

Prime Minister -- I have been in touch with her. We have had meetings and discussed this and we will be seeing her next month, about the 16th, I think it is.

President -- There was a good feeling to that effect and I wanted you to know about it.

President -- There also was a little discussion about the internal situation in Pakistan. You know as much as we do. I touched on the interest of the United States and I suspect India in hoping she succeeds. She has moved along a new democratic path. And I assured her we aren't antagonistic. If she thought we were, then I told her she should call me to reassure her. I told her we want her to succeed, but I did not think I should get involved in the internal affairs of Pakistan. Those were the main issues we discussed. We also discussed some trade problems as you and I had discussed. She was very interested in East-West questions, and I know of your interest. I can only tell you for a personal our NATO alliance is very strong now and we are together. And I hope that with our new proposal, the START talks and Baker's meetings with Shevardnadze we can move forward with the Soviets.

I made clear to Mr. Gorbachev that I want to see the success of Perestroika. Mr. Gorbachev was concerned that some elements want him to fail. Knowing of your interest in these matters I want you to know my frame of mind is better than ever. Our studies are done, we have a sound proposal at NATO, and I hope this will be the catalyst so we can constructively move forward .

Prime Minister -- We are very happy about your proposal and we want them moved forward and we hope that it does break the impasse(?) in the process.

President -- Well I think it will. Baker and Shevardnadze have had to meeting and I want that in good shape.

At some point I will meet with Gorbachev whom I respect. He knows there is no animosity despite previous speculation. I have

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gone out of my way to assure him of that.

In sum, Rajiv, I am not naively optimistic, but things are in reasonable shape for more progress between Soviets and U.S. which affects all countries in the subcontinent and elsewhere.

Prime Minister -- Yes.

President -- Again, I will talk here with my top people and I can assure you I damn sure do not want inadvertently to do anything that will be a political burden to you. I will keep it in a technical way and I recognize that as politics come into the forefront it will be more difficult to work.. If you feel some specific point is too tough, let me know.

Prime Minister Gandhi -- I will do so.

President -- Again, I'm sorry to wake you up. I just wanted to let you know you handled Pakistan well. She reflected this in our talks. Between the United States and Pakistan relations are also on a better par. I have eased some of her wonderings and suspicions which she tends to have. She knows of my affection for you and Sonia. We get along so if we can help let me know.

Prime Minister Gandhi -- I feel like you do. She is the best hope for the subcontinent, for Pakistan, and our bilateral relationship. However we must be cautious. Our over enthusiasm could cause her problems.

President -- Political problems as well as problems with the military. Good talking to you. I look forward to seeing you sometime, I don't know when that will be.

Prime Minister Gandhi -- I understand today is Barbara's birthday. Please give her our warm wishes.

President -- Thank you so much. She will be so pleased that you remembered. I gave her a tennis racket and she's out there swinging it. She is just like a spring colt. It's so nice of you to mention it.

Prime Minister Gandhi -- Good-bye George.

President -- Good-bye.

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