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APPROVED
FOR RELEASE □
DATE:
16-Sep-2009

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 18 AUGUST 1988.

FROM: [REDACTED]

CONTENTS

- 1. PAKISTAN: SITUATION REPORT
- 2. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 6 [REDACTED] ~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

1. PAKISTAN: SITUATION REPORT

CRASH KILLS PAKISTANI PRESIDENT, US AMBASSADOR

PRESIDENT ZIA-UL-HAQ AND US AMBASSADOR ARNOLD RAPHEL WERE KILLED YESTERDAY WHEN THE PAKISTANI C-130 TRANSPORT THEY WERE ON EXPLODED IN THE AIR SHORTLY AFTER TAKEOFF FROM BAHAWALPUR, ABOUT 530 KILOMETERS (330 MILES) SOUTHWEST OF ISLAMABAD. A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID 30 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN THE CRASH, INCLUDING TWO OF PAKISTAN'S TOP MILITARY LEADERS--AKHTAR ABDUL REHMAN KHAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE, AND LT. GEN. MOHAMMAD

PAGE 7 [REDACTED] ~~SECRET~~

AFZAAL, CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF. PRESIDENT ZIA WAS RETURNING FROM OBSERVING A DEMONSTRATION OF US M1A1 TANKS. PRESS REPORTS ATTRIBUTE THE CRASH TO SABOTAGE, AND THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT HAS LAUNCHED A FORMAL INVESTIGATION [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE PAKISTANIS PROBABLY HAVE A LIST OF SUSPECTS, INCLUDING THE INDIANS, THE AFGHANS, AND DOMESTIC SHIA GROUPS.

[REDACTED]

THE SUCCESSION

GHULAM ISHAQ KHAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE, HAS BEEN NAMED ACTING PRESIDENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PAKISTAN'S CONSTITUTION. THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND APPEALED FOR CALM. THE CONSTITUTION REQUIRES BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT TO ELECT A PRESIDENT WITHIN 30 DAYS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. ELECTIONS HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR 16 NOVEMBER, AND ISHAQ KHAN SAID IN A SPEECH LAST NIGHT THAT THEY WILL BE HELD AS SCHEDULED. [REDACTED]

PAGE 8

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED] ISHAQ KHAN HAS FORMED AN EMERGENCY COUNCIL OF SENIOR MINISTERS AND GENERALS TO ADVISE HIM ON GOVERNING THE COUNTRY. [REDACTED] ISHAQ KHAN APPOINTED LT. GEN. ASLAM BEG TO SUCCEED ZIA AS CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: NO TIME LIMIT HAS BEEN SET FOR THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. DESPITE ISHAQ KHAN'S ASSURANCES, THE ELECTIONS MIGHT WELL BE POSTPONED TO ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT TIME TO REGROUP. [REDACTED]

DOMESTIC REACTION

[REDACTED] PRESS REPORTING INDICATES THAT PAKISTANIS ARE STUNNED. MAJOR CITIES ARE QUIET, BUT PRESS REPORTS SAY ARMY TROOPS ARE PATROLLING THE STREETS OF KARACHI, A PERENNIAL CENTER OF UNREST. BENAZIR BHUTTO, THE OPPOSITION'S CHIEF LEADER, TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE OPPOSITION WILL DO WHAT IT CAN TO MAINTAIN PAKISTAN'S STABILITY AND UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTION. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] BENAZIR AND OTHER POLITICIANS UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE NO HOPE OF GAINING POWER IF ELECTIONS ARE PUT OFF INDEFINITELY.

PAGE 9

[REDACTED]

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THEY WILL NOT WANT TO GIVE THE MILITARY ANY PRETEXT FOR STEPPING IN. IF STABILITY IS THREATENED, HOWEVER, THE MILITARY WILL CERTAINLY DECLARE MARTIAL LAW. [REDACTED]

ZIA'S POLICIES TO CONTINUE

[REDACTED]

ISHAQ KHAN SAID PAKISTAN WILL

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CONTINUE TO FOLLOW ZIA'S POLICIES. HE ADDED THAT ALL TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS WOULD BE ADHERED TO. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE LOSS OF ZIA AND JCS CHAIRMAN AKHTAR DEPRIVES THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE OF TWO OF ITS STAUNCHEST SUPPORTERS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE TO LOSE COHESION, BUT ITS MILITARY STRATEGY WILL PROBABLY NOT CHANGE. [REDACTED]

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/

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/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 003 *****/

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