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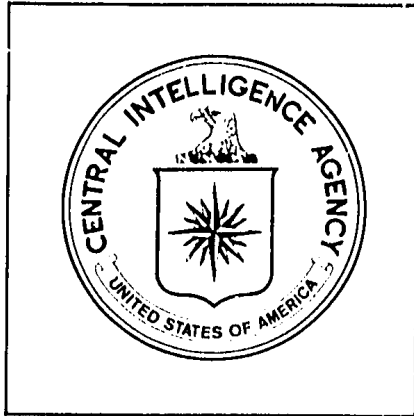
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1 of 1  
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**Secret**

*No Foreign Dissem*



# STAFF NOTES:

## Middle East Africa South Asia

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127

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January 14, 1975

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MIDDLE EAST - AFRICA - SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

Contents

South Yemen: Something for Nothing . . . . .	1
India-Iraq: Mrs. Gandhi's Visit . . . . .	3
Pakistan - Law of the Sea: May Extend Maritime Jurisdiction . . . . .	5

Jan 14, 1975

SECRET

SECRET

South Yemen

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*Something for Nothing*

[REDACTED] the South Yemenis believe they have extracted financial support from their wealthy and conservative Arab neighbors without having to make any significant changes in their left-ist foreign policy. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the information is consistent with other recent reporting on the outlook of the Aden regime.

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The Saudis and other Arab states in the Persian Gulf, [REDACTED] agreed at the Rabat summit in October to give South Yemen financial help. In return, President Ali pledged to "try" to reduce the activities of the Dhofari rebels who Aden has supported in their operations against neighboring Oman. Other reporting suggests Cairo and Riyadh laid on additional conditions agreed to by Ali. In any event, South Yemeni leaders believe that the Dhofari guerrilla effort is increasingly difficult to sustain in the face of Iran's military commitment to Oman, and that it is time for the rebels to shift their main effort to political subversion. According to this and other sources, Aden is urging the rebels to "defect" to the Sultan in order to go underground and exploit Omani weaknesses.

In explaining to the party rank-and-file Aden's new policy of "diplomatic rapprochement" with its conservative neighbors, party leaders are stressing that Aden will continue to infiltrate activists into the Gulf sheikhdoms tasked with building South Yemen's subversive network. The South Yemenis hope that the new conciliatory posture toward its neighbors will clear the way for the establishment of diplomatic missions in the Persian Gulf that can logistically support their subversive organizations there.

There have been earlier indications that Aden sees its foreign policy departures as an attempt to have the best of two worlds. President Ali reportedly

(Continued)

Jan 14, 1975

1

SECRET

SECRET

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promised Egyptian President Sadat and Saudi King  
Faysal at Rabat that Aden would loosen its ties  
with Moscow. [REDACTED]  
however, Ali's goal is to preserve South Yemeni-  
Soviet military and economic relations, while trying  
to secure unconditional Arab economic aid. (SECRET  
NO FOREIGN DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD/BACKGROUND USE  
ONLY/CONTROLLED DISSEM)

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[REDACTED]

Jan 14, 1975

2

SECRET

SECRET

India-Iraq

*Mrs. Gandhi's Visit*

Prime Minister Gandhi is scheduled to visit Iraq from January 18 to 21. The trip reflects India's desire to maintain its longstanding relationship with Iraq, even though New Delhi is currently more interested in the economic and political benefits accruing from closer ties with Iran.

Baghdad reportedly had been pressing Mrs. Gandhi to accept a four-year old invitation, and her acceptance suggests she was assured the trip will be worthwhile in economic terms. In 1974, Iraq provided India with about 17 percent of its oil imports on a deferred payment basis, but terms for this year's oil supplies reportedly are still unresolved.

India's relations with Iraq are influenced by a number of factors. Both countries have friendship treaties with Moscow and are dependent on the Soviets for sophisticated arms. Indian military advisers help train Iraqis in the use of Soviet military equipment, and New Delhi would like to expand sales of compatible spare parts and other military supplies it produces in increasing volume.

Despite close ties to Iraq, New Delhi seems to place a higher value on its warming relations with Iran. Last year, Iran provided India with 60 percent of its oil imports. The Iranians also recently have proved more generous than Iraq in following through on long term trade and other economic proposals aimed at helping India pay its oil debt. In light of improving relations, spurred by an exchange of visits last year by Mrs. Gandhi and the Shah, New Delhi sees less need to count on Iraq as a counterweight to Iran's support of Pakistan.

(Continued)

Jan 14, 1975

3

SECRET

SECRET

The Indians are working hard and with some success to strengthen their position in the Persian Gulf, although Pakistan still has greater influence in the area. New Delhi's decision last week to permit the Palestine Liberation Organization to open an office in the Indian capital is consistent with India's traditional pro-Arab stance. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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Jan 14, 1975

4

SECRET



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Pakistan - Law of the Sea

*May Extend Maritime Jurisdiction*

The Pakistani government is discussing whether to extend by presidential proclamation its maritime jurisdiction, prior to the Geneva Conference on Law-of-the-Sea scheduled to convene in mid-March. Some of Prime Minister Bhutto's advisers are urging him to issue a decree that would:

- Declare Pakistan's entire continental shelf--which exceeds 200 nautical miles--to be an exclusive economic zone.
- Delineate Pakistan's maritime zone from those of India, Oman, and presumably Iran.
- Possibly declare a 50-mile territorial limit.

Pakistan extended its territorial sea by presidential decree in 1966 from the traditional 3 nautical mile limit to 12 miles. Officials in Islamabad say they are justified in establishing new claims because other countries are making similar moves without waiting for a multilateral convention on law-of-the-sea. Pakistan's move to extend its territorial jurisdiction was apparently prompted in part by Indian-sponsored off-shore oil exploration which may be encroaching on Pakistani contested waters. Such action by Pakistan could complicate the proceedings at the coming conference.

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Looking forward to Geneva, the Pakistani

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is pessimistic over prospects at the conference for agreement on an international law-of-the-sea convention. Following the end of the Caracas conference last August, [REDACTED] the delegations were ready to enter serious negotiations at the next session. [REDACTED] now [REDACTED] there are a number of major obstacles to agreement. These include:

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(Continued)

Jan 14, 1975

5

SECRET

SECRET

-- Wide differences over what limitations may be placed on a nation's off-shore economic zones.


-- Lack of consensus on the right of free passage through straits.

-- Lack of agreement on access to the sea for landlocked countries.

The latter issue appears to be particularly thorny, and Pakistani officials say it could wreck the unity of the "group of 77," a group of Third World countries which have a virtual automatic majority among the conference delegations. The recent meeting in Kampala showed a sharp split among the delegations on the right-of-access issue. Pakistan has been a leading opponent of the right-of-access for landlocked countries primarily because of its strained relations with Afghanistan which must seek access to the sea through Pakistani territory. Islamabad appears to be modifying its stand on the issue, however, to keep it from becoming a divisive factor among the 77 and a threat to harmony at the Geneva Conference.

The Afro-Asian countries plan to meet in Tehran on January 26 to consider, among other questions, the right of access for landlocked countries. The Pakistanis also expect representatives of the 77 to meet again before March to try to work out a common negotiating position for the Geneva conference.  
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Jan 14, 1975

6

SECRET