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FFIK Advisory Panel TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 RSR-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

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SUBJ: ARRESTS OF EAST PAKISTANI INTELLECTUALS

REF: STATE 167176, DACCA 8339

1. SUMMARY: REPRESSION OF EAST PAKISTANI INTELLECTUALS IS CONTINUING, ALTHOUGH POSSIBLY ON REDUCED SCALE. THERE ARE INDICATIONS, HOWEVER, THAT GOP AT HIGHEST LEVELS HAS ADOPTED MORE CONCILIATORY POLICY AND THAT THIS POLICY MAY MITIGATE SITUATION AS IT FILTERS DOWN TO OPERATIONAL LEVELS. BELIEVE BEST POLICY FOR US IN THIS REGARD IS TO CONTINUE PRIVATE PRESSURE ON GOP FOR OVERALL BETTER TREATMENT EAST PAK POPULACE INCLUDING INTELLECTUALS. END SUMMARY.

2. WE DO NOT BELIEVE GOP HAS EMBARKED ON ANY NEW OR STEPPED-UP POLICY OF REPRESSION DIRECTED AT EAST PAK INTELLECTUALS AND ACADEMICS. ON OTHER HAND, THERE NO QUESTION THAT THESE EVENTS HAVE BEEN AMONG PRIMARY TARGETS ARMY'S REPRESSIVE ACTIONS BEGINNING IN MARCH. INDICATIONS ARE THAT SUCH REPRESSIVE ACTIONS ARE CONTINUING, ALTHOUGH POSSIBLY (WE THINK PROBABLY) ON REDUCED SCALE AND MORE SELECTIVELY.

3. IN ADDITION ARRESTS DACCA UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS MENTIONED IN STATE REFTEL, CONGEN DACCA CITES FOLLOWING RECENT CASES:

(A) PROMINENT EAST PAKISTANI LAWYER, SCHOLAR AND WRITER, KAMRUDDIN AHMED, ARRESTED SEPT. 6. ARREST MADE DAY AFTER

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GENERAL AMNESTY, ALTHOUGH ORDER FOR ARREST MAY HAVE BEEN PROCESSED BEFORE AMNESTY.

(B) SEVENTEEN STUDENTS, STAFF AND FACULTY OF VARIOUS EAST PAK EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED TO APPEAR BEFORE MILITARY COURT SINCE ABOUT MID-AUGUST, INCLUDING CULTURAL OFFICER OF BENGALI ACADEMY, SARDAR FAZ KARIM, AND STUDENT LEADER FROM CHITTAGONG.

4. BULK OF EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT CONTINUING HARRASSMENT OF EAST PAK INTELLECTUALS IS NOT PRODUCT DELIBERATE HIGH-LEVEL GOP POLICY. TO CONTRARY, YAHYA'S SEPT. 5 AMNESTY PROCLAMATION, APPOINTMENT DR. MALIK AS EAST PAK GOVERNOR AND REMOVAL GENERAL TIKKA KHAN, TOGETHER WITH CONCILIATTRY TONE MALIK'S SEPT. 14 ADDRESS, INDICATE THAT AT HIGHEST GOP LEVELS THERE APPEARS TO BE DESIRE TO END REPRESSION IN EAST AND GO AHEAD WITH PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION PROBLEM AT PRESENT SEEMS TO BE ONE OF TRANSLATING THIS HIGH-LEVEL INTENT INTO CHANGED BEHAVIOR AND CONCRETE ACTION AT OPERATIONAL LEVEL, I.E., INDIVIDUAL ARMY UNITS AND OFFICERS, POLICE, LOCAL AUTHORITIES. EVEN WITH MOST EFFICIENT AND DISCIPLINED GOVT. STRUCTURE THIS WOULD BE TIME-CONSUMING TASK IN LIGHT ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE MARCH. THUS BEST WE CAN SAY AT THIS TIME IN RESPONSE STATE REFTEL IS THAT, WHILE REPRESSION IN EAST WAS CONTINUING AT LEAST UNTIL RECENT DATE, THERE IS BASIS FOR HOPE THAT SITUATION OF INTELLECTUALS WILL IMPROVE AS RESULT NEW GOP INITIATIVES.

5. AS TO QUESTION OF US APPROACH TO GOP IN THIS MATTER, IN RECENT MONTHS WE HAVE REPEATED EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN OVER REPRESSION IN EAST PAKISTAN IN SERIES OF PRIVATE EXCHANGES AT HIGHEST GOP LEVELS BOTH IN GENERAL TERMS AND WITH REGARD PARTICULAR GROUPS (I.E., HINDUS). DCM SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO RECENT ARRESTS OF DACCA UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS IN CONVERSATIONS WITH MAJOR GENERAL FARMAN ALI (PRINCIPAL STAFF OFFICER TO GOV. MALIK) AND MAJOR GENERAL RAHIM KHAN (DEPUTY MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRTOR FOR EAST PAKISTAN) IN DACCA SEPT. 13. WE MUST PRESUME THAT PAK AUTHORITIES ARE AWARE OF OUR CONCERN. BELIEVE BEST IF WE CONTINUE OUR CURRENT PRACTICE OF PERSISTENT BUT QUIET PRESSURE ON GOP TOWARD BETTER TREATMENT EAST PAKISTANIS IN ALL CATEGORIES.

6. CASE OF DR. ABDUS SATTAR IN DIFFERENT CATEGORY FROM THAT OF EAST PAK INTELLECTUALS. AS REPORTED ISLAMABA 9360, SATTAR IS BEING CHARGED WITH SPECIFIC ILLEGAL ACTS, AND AT LEAST ON

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ONE CHARGE == ATTEMPTING LEAVE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY == HE IS APPARENTLY GUILTY. WHILE IT POSSIBLE TO SYMPATHIZE WITH SATTAR'S DILEMMA, WE DOUBT THAT ANY DEGREE US INTERCESSION AT THIS TIME IS WARRANTED. MOREOVER, WE HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY ADVISED BY FRIEND OF SATTAR'S AGAINST IT. GP-3.
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