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4. (U) AFGHANISTAN

(U) REOPENING EMBASSY. PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN DECIDED TO RE-OPEN THE PAKISTAN EMBASSY IN KABUL. DESPITE BITTER OPPOSITION BY PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER SARDAR ASIF AHMAD ALI, THE EMBASSY WILL BE FUNCTIONING BY THE END OF JUNE. PAKISTANI OFFICIALS THOUGHT HAVING NO EMBASSY IN THE AFGHAN CAPITAL CAUSED SERIOUS POLITICAL LOSSES TO ISLAMABAD. LOW PROFILE DIPLOMATIC TIES BETWEEN KABUL AND ISLAMABAD SERVED NO PURPOSE, NOR DID THEY FORCE RABBANI FROM POWER. (FBIS BANGKOK)

(U) RELATIONS BETWEEN ISLAMABAD AND KABUL WERE SEVERED AFTER THE PAKISTAN EMBASSY IN KABUL WAS RANSACKED AND BURNED ON 6 SEPTEMBER 1995 BY THOUSANDS OF AFGHAN DEMONSTRATORS. ONE EMBASSY EMPLOYEE WAS KILLED AND SEVERAL OTHER STAFF MEMBERS -- INCLUDING THE AMBASSADOR -- WERE INJURED. ACCOUNTS OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE ATTACK DIFFER AS TO WHETHER THE RIOT WAS A REACTION TO THE KILLING OF A PROTESTER BY EMBASSY GUARDS, OR A PLANNED ACTION ORGANIZED BY THE KABUL REGIME. RABBANI ACCUSED PAKISTAN OF BACKING THE TALIBAN, WHICH HAD CAPTURED HERAT AND CONTINUE TO BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF THE CAPITAL. (MULTIPLE SOURCES)

(U) J2 COMMENT. FOLLOWING MONTHS OF TALKS AFGHANISTAN AGREED TO COMPENSATE PAKISTAN FOR THE REBUILDING OF THEIR EMBASSY, AND THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE FINALLY COME TO TERMS ON THE REOPENING OF THE EMBASSY IN KABUL. EVER SINCE PAKISTAN HAS WASHED THEIR HANDS OF THE TALIBAN, TENSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES HAVE EASED. (SOUTH ASIA SECTION, SFC b(6))

5. (U) PAKISTAN

(U) RELATIONS IMPROVING BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA. IN A LETTER TO INDIA'S NEW PRIME MINISTER (PM), H.D. DEVE GOWDA, PM BHUTTO EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR PEACEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IN RESPONSE TO HER OFFER FOR TALKS, GOWDA SAID HIS GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO WORK WITH PAKISTAN TO RESOLVE ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN. HE ALSO SAID NEW DELHI IS READY FOR COMPREHENSIVE DIALOGUE WITH ISLAMABAD, WITH TALKS INITIALLY AT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY LEVEL. (FBIS)

(U) J2 COMMENT. BHUTTO'S OFFER FOR TALKS APPEARS TO SEND THE MESSAGE THAT ALTHOUGH PAKISTAN COULD NOT POLITICALLY DEAL WITH INDIA UNDER RAO, IT IS PREPARED TO GIVE INDIA UNDER GOWDA A CHANCE. AN EXAMPLE OF BHUTTO'S SINCERITY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WAS THE REQUEST THE SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT MEDIATE IN THE KASHMIR ISSUE. PM BHUTTO'S APPROACH IS NOT FLAWLESS BECAUSE RAO'S PARTY -- ALTHOUGH OUT OF OFFICE -- STILL HOLDS THE KEY TO INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS. (SOUTH ASIA SECTION, SFC b(6))

6. (U) SIGNIFICANT DATES AND EVENTS

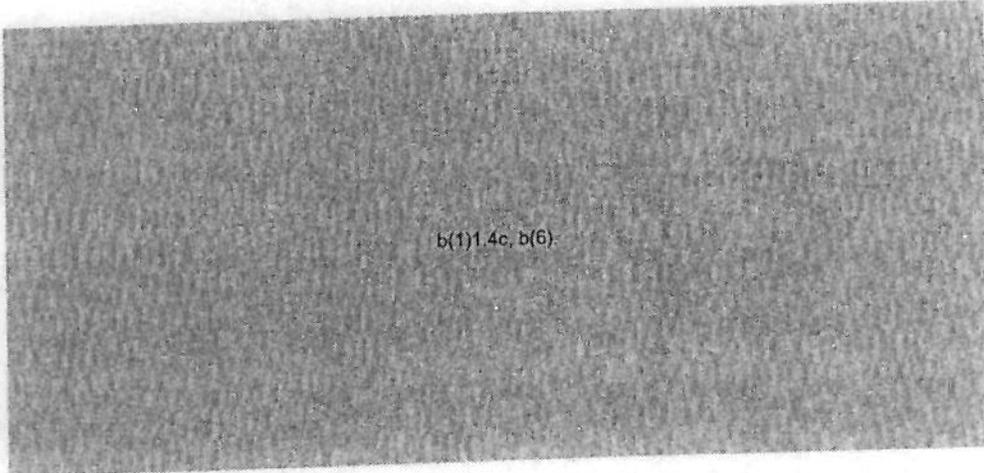
(U) 18 JUN - EGYPT - EVACUATION DAY/GEN. NEGUIB PROCLAIMS REPUBLIC (1953). COMMEMORATES THE DEPARTURE OF FOREIGN FORCES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST REPUBLIC UNDER PRESIDENT NEGUIB. NEGUIB'S RISE TO POWER AS PART OF THE FREE OFFICER'S REVOLT AGAINST KING

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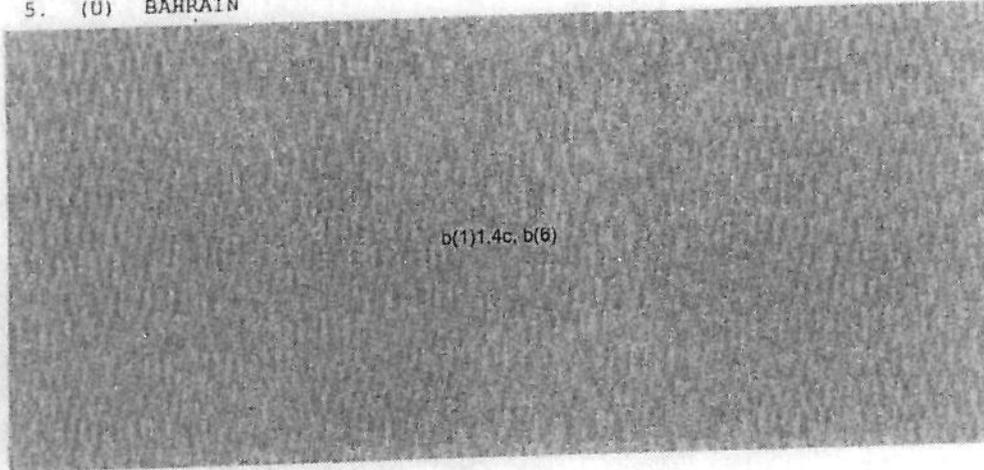
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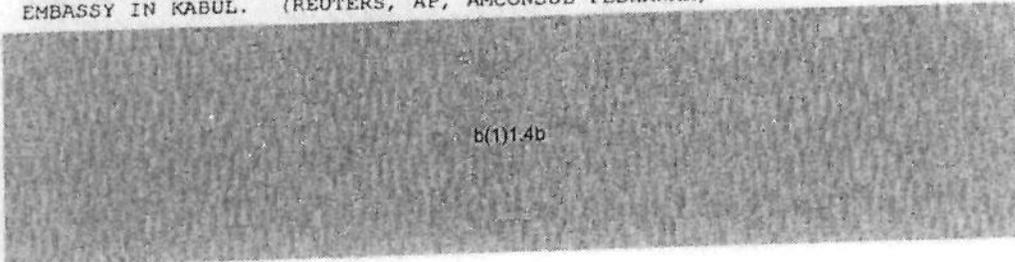
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5. (U) BAHRAIN



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6. (U) AFGHANISTAN
(U) RABBANI ENVOY EXPELLED FROM PAKISTAN. AFGHAN PRESIDENT RABBANI'S PERSONAL ENVOY IN PAKISTAN, MASOOD KHALILI, WAS EXPELLED FROM ISLAMABAD ON 9 OCTOBER. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE DETERIORATED FOLLOWING A 6 SEPTEMBER ATTACK ON THE PAKISTANI EMBASSY IN KABUL. (REUTERS, AP, AMCONSUL PESHAWAR)



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