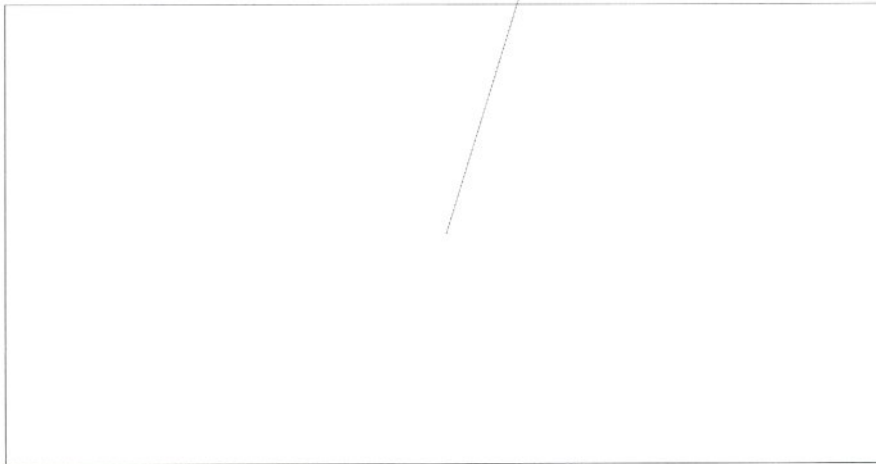


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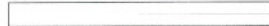
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COUNTRY: (U) INDIA (IN).

SUBJ: [Redacted] SOVIET PROPAGANDA AND
DISINFORMATION THEMES IN THE INDIAN PRESS DURING
JULY 88. (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

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SUMMARY: ~~(C)~~ THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES SOVIET PROPAGANDA
AND DISINFORMATION NEWS ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN INDIAN
NEWSPAPERS DURING JULY 1988. THE U.S. DOWNING OF THE
IRANIAN AIRBUS RECEIVED THE MOST ATTENTION. COVERAGE
ACCUSES THE U.S. OF INTENTIONALLY DOWNING THE AIRLINER
AND OF OUR NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE GULF CONTRIBUTING TO
REGIONAL TENSIONS.

TEXT:

1. (U) BY FAR THE DOMINANT DISINFORMATION AND
PROPAGANDA THEME IN JULY WAS THE U.S. NAVY SHOOT DOWN OF
THE IRANIAN AIRBUS, WITH SEVEN OF THE NINETEEN STORIES
COVERED IN THIS REPORT PERTAINING TO THE TRAGEDY. MOST
COVERAGE ACCUSES THE U.S. OF INTENTIONALLY DOWNING THE
CIVILIAN AIRLINER, AND CONTRIBUTING TO REGIONAL TENSIONS
BY SENDING NAVAL FORCES INTO THE PERSIAN GULF. A
SUBTHEME RUNNING THROUGH MANY OF THE STORIES, AND OFTEN
DRAWING SUPPORTING QUOTES FROM SOVIET SOURCES, IS THAT
THE AMERICAN ACTIONS WERE CRIMINAL, WHILE THE SOVIET

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DOWNING OF THE KAL FLIGHT FIVE YEARS AGO WAS A JUSTIFIED RESPONSE TO AN AMERICAN ESPIONAGE ATTEMPT. ALLEGED PAKISTANI AND U.S. VIOLATIONS OF THE AFGHAN ISTAN ACCORDS CONTINUE AS A MAJOR THEME, AS DOES PERENNIAL ACCUSATIONS OF U.S. ATTEMPTS TO DESTABLIZE THE RAJIV GANDHI GOVERNMENT.

2. (U) AS USUAL, THE PRO-MOSCOW DAILY "PATRIOT" ACCOUNTED FOR THE LARGEST NUMBER (FIVE) OF NINETEEN STORIES CITED. THE PRO-CONGRESS(I) DAILY "NATIONAL HERALD" WAS SECOND WITH FOUR ARTICLES. THIRTEEN OF THE PUBLICATIONS ARE IN ENGLISH, SIX IN BENGALI, AND ONE EACH IN URDU, TELUGU AND HINDI.

3. (U) THE FOLLOWING STORIES FROM SOVIET AND OTHER SOURCES APPEARED IN THE INDIAN PRESS DURING JULY, 1988. THESE ARE BRIEF SUMMARIES IDENTIFIED BY DATELINE, SOURCE, AND MEDIUM IN WHICH THEY APPEARED. THIS REPORT PRESENTS A SAMPLE OF ANTI-U.S. PROPAGANDA AND DISINFORMATION APPEARING HERE, BUT IS NOT A COMPREHENSIVE RECORD.

4. (U) U.S.-ISRAELI ABM PROJECT VIOLATION OF SALT -- NEW DELHI. IN A FRONT PAGE ANALYSIS, "PATRIOT" SAID THE U.S. - ISRAELI DECISION TO CREATE AN ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE (ABM) DEFENSE SYSTEM IN WEST ASIA IS AN ESCALATION OF THE MILITARY CAPABILITIES OF SUCH OF ITS PROXIES AS THE ZIONIST STATE, THE RACIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE DICTATORSHIP IN PAKISTAN, ALL OF WHOM ARE ALSO CLANDESTINE NUCLEAR WEAPON POWERS." THE NEWSPAPER CHARGED THAT "AFTER DROPPING ALL PRETENSES ABOUT HORIZONTAL PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPON CAPABILITIES AMONG ITS PROXIES, SPECIFICALLY ISREAL AND SOUTH AFRICA, BY SCUTTILING THE U.S. SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT, WASHINGTON HAS ADDED A DANGEROUS NEW DIMENSION TO THE ARMS RACE AMONG THE DEVELOPING WORLD." ("PATRIOT" 2 JUL 88).

5. (U) "A DELIBERATE MURDER," SYS RUSSIA -- (REUTERS) A MOSCOW RADIO COMMENTATOR ALEXANDER POGODIN CHARGED THAT THE SHOOTING DOWN OF AN IRANIAN AIRLINER BY THE U.S. WARSHIP VINCENNES WAS A "DELIBERATE MASS MURDER" AND REJECTED U.S. ACCOUNTS THAT THE TRAGEDY WAS AN ACCIDENT. DISMISSING COMPARISONS WITH THE DOWNING OF THE KAL AIRCRAFT BY SOVIET PLANES IN SEPTEMBER 1983M HE OBSERVED "IN THAT CASE IT WAS A PLANE THAT HAD BEEN SENT INTO SOVIET AIRSPACE FOR SPYING AND FOR A LONG TIME CONTINUED FLYING OVER SOVIET TERRITORY DESPITE WARNINGS." CALLING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. AND OTHER FOREIGN SHIPS FROM THE GULF REGION, ANOTHER RADIO MOSCOW COMMENTARY ACCUSED THE AMERICAN COMMANDERS OF "LOSING CONTROL OVER THEIR ACTION." ("THE STATESMAN", "THE HINDUSTAN TIMES", "NATIONAL HERALD", "PATRIOT" AND BOMBAY'S FREE PRESS JOURNAL" CARRIED THE REUTERS REPORT. "THE TIMES OF INDIA" AND "INDIAN EXPRESS" PUBLISHED PTI AND UNI VERSIONS IN ADDITION TO REUTER'S. 5 JUL 88).

6. (U) COMMUNISTS CRITICIZE U.S. ACTION -- NEW DELHI.

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(CORRESPONDENT) THE POLITBURO OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST) DESCRIBED THE SHOOTING DOWN OF AN IRANIAN AIRLINER BY THE U.S. AS A "CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY COMING IN THE WAKE OF THE "CONTINUING ARROGANT DISPLAY OF FORCES IN THE GULF REGION BY THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION." THE CENTRAL SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (CPI) CHARGED THAT THE U.S. ACTION WAS DELIBERATE AND "THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TERRIBLE TRAGEDY." IT ALSO VIEWED THE PRESENCE OF U.S. NAVAL FORCES IN THE GULF AS INCREASING REGIONAL TENSIONS AND POSING A SERIOUS THREAT TO INDIA'S SECURITY. ("THE STATESMAN", "INDIAN EXPRESS", "THE HINDU" OR MADRAS 5 JULY 88).

7. (U) "PRAVDA" FORESEES MORE TRAGEDIES -- MOSCOW. (UNI) CALLING UPON THE U.S. TO REMOVE ITS BASES AND MILITARY PRESENCE OUTSIDE ITS BOUNDARY, THE SOVIET DAILY "PRAVDA" SAID "TRAGEDIES SUCH AS THE SHOOTING DOWN OF AN IRANIAN AIRLINER WOULD CONTINUE TO HAPPEN IF THE U.S. MAINTAINED ITS BASES ON THE TERRITORIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND VIOLATED INTERNATIONAL AIRSPACE." REFERRING TO THE ATTEMPTS TO COMPARE THE IRANIAN TRAGEDY WITH THE 1983 DOWNING OF A KAL AIRLINER, THE DAILY ALLEGED THAT THE KAL FLIGHT OVER SOVIET AIRSPACE WAS A PRE-PLANNED ACTION BY THE CIA. ("NATIONAL HERALD" 6 JULY 88).

8. (U) A "TONKIN" IN THE GULF -- NEW DELHI. IN A FRONT-PAGE ANALYTICAL PIECE, "PATRIOT'S" MILITARY AFFAIRS EXPERT ALLEGED THAT THE DELIBERATE SHOOTING DOWN OF AN IRANIAN AIRLINER BY THE U.S. NAVY IS "A BLUEPRINT FOR ANOTHER VIETNAM-STYLE INTERVENTION." HE CHARGED THAT "THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A KILLING WERE CALCULATED BEFOREHAND AND INSCRIBED IN THE ORDER OF THE DAY ISSUED TO ALL U.S. SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT CARRIERS IN THE REGION" AND ADDED THAT ANY HOSTILE RETALIATION TO SUCH AN ACT WOULD BE COUNTERED WITH A MASSIVE ATTACK AGAINST THE IRANIAN MAINLAND. ("PATRIOT" 6 JULY 88).

9. (U) SHOOTING DOWN OF AIRBUS CONDEMNED -- HYDERABAD. CONDEMNING THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN AIRBUS, THE POPULAR TELUGU DAILY "EENADU" IN AN EDITORIAL COMMENTED -- "HOW CAN WE DESCRIBE A GOVERNMENT THAT ON THE ONE HAND PRETENDS TO BE AIMING AT WORLD PEACE AND ON THE OTHER KILLS INNOCENT PEOPLE THROUGH NASTY TERRORIST ACTS. THIS WAS HOW PRESIDENT REAGAN ACTED....THERE ARE NO WORDS TO CONDEMN THE CRUEL ACT OF THE AMERICAN NAVY....THE WAY IN WHICH THE U.S. TRIED TO SUPPORT ITS ACT IS DEPLORABLE. ONLY RAMBO REAGAN CAN ADOPT THE DUAL POLICY OF REGRETTING THE "TRAGIC MISTAKE" ON THE ONE HAND AND JUSTIFYING HIS NAVY'S ACTION AS AN "APPROPRIATE DEFENSIVE ACT" ON THE OTHER....FROM ALL ACCOUNTS, THE DOWNING OF THE AIRPLANE WAS A DELIBERATE ACT...." (TELUGU DAILY "EENADU" FROM HYDERABAD, 7 JULY 88).

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10. (U) "THREAT TO EVERYONE" NEW DELHI. A FEATURE IN THE URDU DAILY "QAUMI AWAZ", SISTER PUBLICATION OF THE "NATIONAL HERALD", CHARGED THAT THE U.S. HAS A FORCE EXCEEDING ITS SECURITY REQUIREMENTS AND THE PENTAGON PERCEIVES ITSELF AS "THE MASTER OF THE WORLD." U.S. LEADERS BELIEVE THAT THE MILITARY MACHINE, OBVIOUSLY AGGRESSIVE IN CHARACTER, SHOULD BE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO COUNTER THE SOVIET UNION AND INTIMIDATE COUNTRIES IN ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA THAT DARE GO AGAINST U.S. POLICY INTERESTS. AFTER GIVING DETAILS OF U.S. WEAPONRY AND TROOPS DEPLOYED IN EUROPE AND 1,500 BASES, DOTTED ACROSS THE WORLD TO MEET THE SOVIET THREAT AND KEEP A WATCH ON COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE FEATURE ALLEGED "THE U.S. HAS SUPPLIED SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS TO PAKI STAN AND HAS SEVERAL BASES THERE FOR MILITARY ACTIONS AGAINST INDIA." (URDU DAILY "QAUMI AWAZ" 8 JULY 88).

11. (U) DUMPING OF TOXIC WASTES IN AFRICA. ACCRA. (UNI) HIGHLIGHTING THE DUMPING OF TOXIC WASTES IN SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN CONNIVANCE WITH FOREIGN AND LOCAL BUSINESSMEN WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS, AND IN CERTAIN CASES UNDER AGREEMENTS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, UNI CITED SIERRA LEONE AS HAVING RECEIVED, UNWITTINGLY, A CONSIGNMENT OF TOXIC ASH FROM THE U.S. THE NEWS AGENCY OBSERVED "CAPE VERDE ALSO APPEARS TO BE A LIKELY HOME FOR THE SECOND LOAD OF INCINERATOR ASH FROM A PHILADELPHIA COMPANY WHICH HAS BEEN SAILING ROUND THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE SINCE AUGUST 1986....IN ZIMBABWE, HAZARDOUS WASTE FROM ARMED FORCES AGENCIES IN THE U.S. WAS DUMPED IN A PHOSPHATE PIT. THE WASTE, 1,500 GALLONS, WAS EXPORTED FROM THE U.S. FALSELY LABELED AS CLEANING FLUIDS. THEY WERE PURCHASED FROM THE U.S. BY A COMPANY IN ZIMBABWE WITH FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)." UNI POINTED OUT "THESE ILLEGAL DUMPINGS POINT TO THE EASE WITH WHICH WESTERN INDUSTRIAL WASTES CAN FIND THEIR WAY TO THE CONTINENT. ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, SOME OF THE AGREEMENTS (TO DUMP WASTES) ARE TIED DOWN TO THE AID PROGRAM WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BE WITHDRAWN THE MOMENT TOXIC AGREEMENTS ARE REPUDIATED." ("FINANCIAL EXPRESS" OF MADRAS, "NEWSTIME" OF HYDERABAD 12 JULY 88).

12. (U) USSR WARNING TO U.S., PAK ON AFGHANISTAN -- MOSCOW. (UNI) THE SOVIET FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER YLI VORONTSOV WARNED BOTH THE U.S. AND PAKISTAN FOR NOT ADHERING TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE GENEVA ACCORD ON AFGHANISTAN. MR. VORONTSOV TOLD THE U.S. AND PAKISTANI AMBASSADORS IN MOSCOW THAT "THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT BY AFGHAN REBELS ON PAK TERRITORY HAS CONTRADICTED THE COMMITMENTS ASSUMED BY PAKISTAN" AND AMOUNTS TO INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE ADDED THAT PAKISTAN HAD ADOPTED "AN

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ATTITUDE OF CONFRONTATION." ("THE HINDU" OF MADRAS, 14 JULY 88).

13. (U) PAK LEADER WARNS AGAINST U.S. SUPPORT TO ZIA -- LONDON. (PTI) WARNING THE UNITED STATES THAT ITS UNABASHED SUPPORT OF ZIA MAY COMPEL PAKISTANIS TO ADOPT ANOTHER COURSE FOR RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY, JAM SAQI, A POLITBURO MEMBER OF THE BANNED COMMUNIST PARTY OF PAKISTAN, TOILD A MEETING ORGANIZED BY THE PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (PPP), "THE WEST NEEDS TO BE TOLD THAT THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN CAN AFFORD DEMOCRACY AND IF IT (THE WEST) CONTINUES TO PATRONIZE ARMY GENERALS, THE RESULTS MAY BE OTHERWISE." HE ALSO CHARGED THAT WASHINGTON WAS TRYING TO CONVERT KARACHI INTO A NAVAL BASE. ("NATIONAL HERALD", "THE INDIAN POST" OF BOMBAY 14 JULY 88).

14. (U) WAR BY FORGERY ON RAJIV -- THE PRO-MOSCOW WEEKLY "BLITZ" CARRIED AN ARTICLE BY EDITOR R.K. KARANJIA CLAIMING TO HAVE DETAILS OF AN "ABOMINABLE NEW PLOT....FABRICATED IN CIA'S DIRTY TRICKS ESTABLISHMENT IN GENEVA" TO IMPLICATE PRIME MINISTER GANDHI IN THE BOFORS DEAL AND ESTABLISH THAT HE HAS A SECURITY SWISS BANK ACCOUNT. KARANJIA ALSO CLAIMED THAT DETAILS OF THE PLOT WERE SECURED FROM THE SAME "AUTHENTIC SOURCES" THAT PROVIDED "BLITZ" THE HERITAGE-CASEY DOCUMENTS EXPOSING CIA'S ORIGINAL MASTERPLOT TO DESTABLIZE THE GANDHI GOVERNMENT. ("BLITZ" 16 JULY 88).

15. (U) PAK, WEST "ABETTING" TERRORISM -- MOSCOW. (PTI) AN ARTICLE IN THE SOVIET DAILY "SOVETSKAYA ROSSIA" CRITICIZED PAKISTAN, THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, CANADA, WEST GERMANY AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES FOR SHELTERING SIKH TERRORISTS AND CHARGED THAT THESE COUNTRIES HAVE BECOME CO-DIRECTORS OF THE PUNJAB TRAGEDY. IT WAS ONLY THEIR SUPPORT WHICH ENABLED THE SIKH TERRORISTS TO CONTINUE THEIR ACTIVITIES AGGRAVATING THE DOMESTIC SITUATION IN INDIA. ("THE HINDUSTAN TIMES", "NATIONAL HERALD", "PATRIOT", BENGALI DAILY "KALANTAR" OF CALCUTTA 15 JULY 88. BENGALI DAILIES "JUGANTAR" AND "BASUMATI" OR CALCUTTA 16 JULY 88. BENGALI DAILY "BARTAMAN" OF CALCUTTA 18 JULY 88).

16. (U) SHOOTING DOWN OF AIRBUS CONDEMNED -- CALCUTTA. THE EDITOR OF THE POPULAR HINDI WEEKLY "RAVIVAR", SISTER PUBLICATION OF WEEKLY "SUNDAY" OF THE "ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA" GROUP OF NEWSPAPERS, WHILE CONDEMNING THE RECENT SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRANIAN AIRBUS, DESCRIBED IT AS AN ATTEMPT TO PRESSURE COUNTRIES IN THE WEST AND SOUTH ASIA WHICH DO NOT TOE THE U.S. LINE. THE WEEKLY ALSO OBSERVED THAT THE INCIDENT CANNOT BE COMPARED WITH THE DOWNING OF THE SOUTH KOREAN JUMBO JET BY THE SOVIET UNION IN 1983. (HINDI WEEKLY "RAVIVAR" OF CALCUTTA, 17 JULY 88).

17. (U) SHOOTING OF AIRLINER "DELIBERATE" -- CALCUTTA. THE CPI(M) - OWNED BENGALI DAILY "GANASHAKTI" EDITORIALY CONDEMNED THE "DELIBERATE" DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN

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PASSENGER AIRCRAFT AND DISMISSED U.S. CONTENTIONS THAT THIS WAS DONE IN SELF-DEFENSE. THE EDITORIAL CLAIMED BAD RELATIONS WITH THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT PROMPTED THE U.S. TO STAY IN THE GULF REGION AND CONCLUDED THAT THE U.S. IS BUILDING A LARGE NAVAL BASE IN PAKISTAN AND AIDING AFGHAN REBELS, NOT TO SAFEGUARD REGIONAL INTERESTS, BUT TO FURTHER ITS OWN AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS. (BENGALI DAILY "GANASHAKTI" 17 JULY 88).

18. (U) U.S. SAVIOUR OF BOTH A REGIME -- CALCUTTA. BENGALI DAILIES "GANASHAKTI" AND "BASUMATI" EDITORIALY CONDEMNED THE CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT OF NELSON MANDELA AND DEMANDED HIS IMMEDIATE RELEASE, SAYING THE BOTHA GOVERNMENT SURVIVES BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT IT RECEIVES FROM THE "IMPERIALISTS -- U.S, BRITAIN, WEST GERMANY AND OTHERS." "GANASHAKTI" ALLEGED THAT THE CIA HELPED THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE CAPTURE MANDELA. ("BENGALI DAILIES "GANASHAKTI", AND "BASUMATI" OF CALCUTTA 18 JULY 88).

19. (U) CAPITALISM AND SOCIALISM CAN RESOLVE DIFFERENCES -- CALCUTTA. AN ARTICLE IN THE BENGALI DAILY "ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA" DISMISSED THE POLICY OF "GLASNOST" AND "PERESTROIKA" AND QUESTIONED GORBACHEV'S STATEMENTS THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CAPITALISM AND SOCIALISM AND IMPERIALISM AND ANTI-COLONIALISM CAN BE RESOLVED AMICABLY. THE ARTICLE ASKED WHY, IF CAPITALISM CAN DEVELOP WITHOUT MILITARIZING THE ECONOMY, WERE "U.S. IMPERIALIS TS" NOT ABLE TO DO SO? IT ALLEGED THAT SINCE WORLD WAR II, "IMPERIALISTS" HAVE DIRECTLY PARTICIPATED OR INSTIGATED MORE THAN 100 REGIONAL CONFLICTS, AND HAVE CONTINUOUSLY EXPORTED COUNTER-REVOLUTIONS IN ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA, EITHER BY DIRECT INTERVENTION, SABOTAGE OR BY PROXY WARS. IT CITED "HUGE PROFITS" U.S. ARMS TRADERS HAVE MADE SINCE 1980. (BENGALI DAILY "ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA" 26 JULY 88).

20. (U) FILIPINOS WISH TO END COLONIAL BONDAGE -- CALCUTTA. COMMENTING ON DEMONSTRATIONS BY FILIPINOS DEMANDING DISMANTLING OF U.S. MILITARY BASES AND ABROGATION OF BASE AGREEMENTS, THE BENGALI DAILY "GANASHAKTI" CHARGED THAT "U.S. IMPERIALISTS, BY BUILDING THE BIGGEST AND MOST SOPHISTICATED MILITARY BASES...ARE ENGAGED IN A DANGEROUS CONSPIRACY AGAINST HUMANITY." FILIPINOS HAVE REALIZED THE "EVIL DESIGNS" OF "U.S. IMPERIALISTS" AND ARE NO LONGER WILLING TO REMAIN UNDER U.S. CONTROL. CITING PRESIDENT REAGAN'S EIGHT BILLION DOLLAR MINI-MARSHALL PLAN, THE ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE WILL FURTHER WEAKEN THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY. THE ONLY WAY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM IS TO SEVER U.S. COLONIAL BONDS. (BENGALI DAILY "GANASHAKTI" 27 JULY 88).

21. (U) FOREIGN SABOTEURS IN AFGHANISTAN -- MOSCOW. (NOVOSTI) "AT A TIME WHEN DIFFERENT REBELLIOUS GROUPS HAVE DECIDED NOT TO CREATE PROBLEMS IN THE MATTER OF REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES AND NOT LAUNCH ATTACKS OF

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HOME-BOUND SOVIET TROOPS, THE MOVEMENTS OF FOREIGN MILITARY EXPERTS, FROM THE ARAB COUNTRIES, THE UNITED STATES, WEST GERMANY AND FRANCE, HAVE BEEN NOTICED IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS OF AFGHANISTAN SINCE MAY 27. THESE EXPERTS ARE ENGAGED IN SABOTEURING ACTIVITIES AGAINST AFGHAN SOLDIERS AND VARIOUS OTHER ORGANIZATIONS." (BENGALI DAILY "KALANTAR" 27 JULY 88).

22. (U) U.S. PLAYS "POLITICS OF HUNGER" -- NEW DELHI. A "PATRIOT" ARTICLE COMMENTED THAT "FACED WITH A SEVERE DROUGHT AND SHARP FALL IN FOOD GRAINS PRODUCTION, THE USAID PROGRAM WITH ITS OFFSHOOTS LIKE PL-480 ARE LIKELY TO SUFFER A SETBACK. UNDOUBTEDLY, THIS WILL SEVERELY HIT THE U.S. IMAGE OF A SURPLUS PRODUCER WHICH WAS SO ESSENTIAL TO ITS "FOOD POLITICS" ALL OVER THE WORLD." CITING ETHIOPIA WHERE WESTERN AGENCIES AND USAID HAD A "FIELD DAY" DISTRIBUTING AID AND "WINNING FRIENDS AND INFLUENCING PEOPLE" IN 1985, THE ARTICLE SAYS RECENT VICTORIES OF THE ETHIOPIAN ARMY AGAINST "IMPERIALIST-BACKED REBELS" AND THE RESOLUTION OF REGIONAL CONFLICTS BY THE OAU HAS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE U.S. TO COERCE ETHIOPIA. THE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ETHIOPIA OVER WHO SHOULD DISTRIBUTE FOOD AID COMING FROM THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES WAS INTENDED TO DISCREDIT THE ETHIOPIANS. IN FACT THE INABILITY OF THE U.S. TO PROVIDE PROMISED AID IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUS DROUGHT CONDITIONS, WAS TO BE COVERED UP AND U.S. THREATS TO DIRECT FOOD AID TO SUDAN AND PASS THEM ON TO REBELS, WAS AN INSTRUMENT OF BLACKMAIL. ("PATRIOT" 27 JULY 88).

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