

GRS 200

CONFIDENTIAL

cc: 10 Downing St

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FM NEW DELHI 290750Z MAR 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 426 OF 29 MARCH

hu pc

WESTLANDS

1. TREACHER SAW BHATNAGAR (SECRETARY DEFENCE) LAST NIGHT AND ASKED HIM ABOUT THE ALLEGED TECHNICAL DOUBTS ON THE WG30. BHATNAGAR REHEARSED THE POINTS HE HAD MADE TO ME ON 23 MARCH. TREACHER REMINDED BHATNAGAR THAT ALL THESE QUESTIONS HAD BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED LAST YEAR, BUT OFFERED TO GO THROUGH THEM AGAIN IF THE INDIANS WISHED. HE PUT IF TO BHATNAGAR THAT THEY WERE NOT THE REAL REASON FOR THE DELAY. IN RESPONSE BHATNAGAR ADMITTED THAT THE PROBLEMS WERE POLITICAL, THAT HIS HANDS WERE TIED AND THAT HE COULD NOT MOVE UNTIL INSTRUCTED BY A HIGHER LEVEL TO PROCEED. TREACHER ASKED WHETHER THE POLITICAL PROBLEM WAS CHAUHAN. AFTER SOME REFLECTION, BHATNAGAR REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT THINK SO, 'BECAUSE THE BRITISH ATTITUDE HAS TOUGHENED RECENTLY'.

3. BHATNAGAR URGED TREACHER NOT TO BE TOO DISCOURAGED AND ASSURED HIM THAT HE PERSONALLY WANTED TO GET THE WESTLANDS DEAL THROUGH. TREACHER'S CONCLUSION IS THAT THERE WILL BE NO MOVEMENT UNTIL THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT ON 13 APRIL, ON WHICH ALL HINGES, BUT THAT THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE OF MOVEMENT THEN. ASSUMING HE HAS ACCURATELY REPORTED BHATNAGAR, THIS SEEMS A FAIR ASSESSMENT.

WADE-GERY

LIMITED

SAD.

MAED.

ODA.

PS

PS | LADY YOUNG.

PS | MR. RENTON.

PS | PUS.

SIR. W. HARDING

MR. BRAITHWAITE

MR. WILSON.

CLOSED UNDER THE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
ACT 2000

ADDITIONAL DIST  
SUB CONTINENT.

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