



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

March 15, 1974

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PLACE: OEOB
TIME: 3:40 p.m.
DATE: March 7, 1974

SUBJECT: Indian Ambassador's Courtesy Call on the Vice President

PARTICIPANTS: The Vice President
Mr. John O. Marsh, Jr.

Ambassador Triloki Nath Kaul
Mr. Eric Gonsalves, Indian Minister of
Political Affairs

The Ambassador conveyed greetings on behalf of his government and an invitation to the Vice President to visit India.

Vice President: Said he may be making an international trip this Fall -- no thoughts now on the itinerary but would certainly consider India. He spoke favorably about the possibility of such a trip but made no definite commitment.

Kaul: We were friends and that friendship with U.S. is important -- said it was not a courtesy call but a visit to cement relations.

Vice President: We counted a previous trip to India in mid-'60s.

Kaul: Spoke to HAK re institutionalising our relations. Have visited across much of the U.S. and like what I see.



Vice President: Asked views re Diego Garcia.

Kaul: Spoke highly of U.S. Ambassador and how he was doing his job, but went on to cite UN resolution to keep Indian Ocean free from great power interference. He said it was "an area of peace for trade and commerce" and not of bases. During Brezhnev visit to India, it was suggested a conference of littoral states and the need for an international conference to lay out terms. Diego Garcia will lead to a Soviet need for bases.

Vice President: Where?

Kaul: Said, "for example, Iraq, etc."

Kaul: U.S. move has generated opposition in the Parliament -- there is worry about permanent U.S. presence.

Kaul began move to change subject and suggested what was need was a joint U.S. /India Commission. Cited India's fear of India having satellite status to any country.

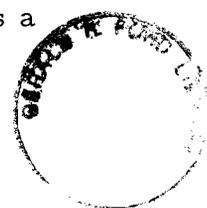
Kaul: He was instructed by the Prime Minister to build U.S. relations. There are many fields for cooperation. India has much in common with the U.S.

He said he would speak frankly -- he felt the U.S. had been neglecting long time items because of internal and external problems.

Vice President: Mentioned his conversation with HAK and the proposed trip and Vice President's great interest in being helpful. Asked about the economic situation in India.

Kaul: Gave the Vice President a summary and mentioned their interest in off-shore oil development and that they were working with American oil companies on this. He urged that we substitute trade for aid. U. S. should look at its imports from India and try to increase.

Vice President: Cited the need for a trade bill and there was a general discussion on this subject.



Kaul: Emphasized that a Soviet agreement does not preclude an agreement with the U.S. He mentioned that he felt that the Arabs had overplayed their hands on the oil embargo.

After a short exchange of further pleasantries, the meeting ended.

Prepared by: John O. Marsh, Jr.



File



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

28 February 1974

Mr Marsh
Approved for
conference for
3:40 pm
Thurs 7 March
M

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Courtsey call by the Indian Ambassador

My office has been contacted by the Indian Embassy requesting a 15 minute courtsey call by Ambassador Triloki Nath KAUL. The Embassy stated that you agreed to the call when the Ambassador made the request during the diplomatic reception at the Blair House on 19 February.

The State Department believes that your meeting with the Indian Ambassador at this time would be very supportive of new U. S. efforts to improve our relations with India. More specifically it would be helpful:

- in conjunction with Secretary Kissingers planned trip to India later this year;
- to placate Indian ire over U.S. plans to increase facilities at Diego Garcia;
- to assuage possible bad publicity concerning U.S./Indian relations resulting from the Kissinger/Moorer hearings;

If you meet the Ambassador KAUL, I would expect an increase in the number of requests for calls from foreign diplomats when this call becomes known.

Jack
Jack Marsh

I would recommend.
you

Will see Ambassador KAUL

Will NOT see Ambassador KAUL

Please discuss with me _____





OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

March 5, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE VICE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Call by Indian Ambassador T. N. Kaul

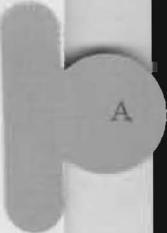
You are currently scheduled to meet with Ambassador Kaul at 3:40 pm on Thursday, March 7, 1974. Ambassador Kaul is India's senior diplomat. He served previously as Ambassador to Moscow and Peking and as Foreign Secretary. He has been in Washington since last May and has traveled extensively in the United States and has become an advocate of Indo-U.S. relations in spite of a previous reputation of pro Soviet leanings.

While Ambassador Kaul has indicated a courtesy call, he may want to discuss matters of substance relating to Indo-U.S. relations. You will recall earlier memo that we are making efforts to improve U.S. /Indian relations. At Tab A are five issues/talking points which have been prepared by the State Department. At Tab B is biographical data on Ambassador Kaul.


Jack Marsh



Concerning Henry's visit, see
page 3 tab A.



Issues/Talking Points

1. Indo-U.S. Relations: Next Steps

Indian Position: In their current economic plight, the Indians are moving slowly toward more pragmatic economic policies. They have opened up certain offshore areas for private oil companies and are likely to award concessions shortly, including to some U.S. firms. They may ease restrictions on foreign investment. Ambassador Kaul has urged greater U.S. commercial involvement in India in his meetings with American businessmen.

As a possible next step in improving relations, the Indians have taken up the idea of establishing some form of Joint Commission, preferably headed by the Secretary and Foreign Minister, with subgroups on trade, educational and scientific matters. India wants the commission both as a symbol of better relations and as a means of providing for more regulated interchange between the two countries.

U.S. Position: Over the past two years, we have been restructuring our relations with India, moving away from an intrusive donor/client relationship. The rupee agreement was a big step in this process. Last summer we indicated a willingness to discuss trade and possible aid questions, topics which we expect will now come up soon, either in the context of the Secretary's proposed trip to India (see next talking point) or in some other appropriate bilateral forum. We have an open mind on a Joint Commission, seeking to ensure that it contributes to flexibility, rather than rigidity, in our relations.

Your Talking Points

-- We are pleased with the good progress made in our relations over the past year.

-- We want this progress to continue and think there are good prospects for increased trade and investment.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guideline
By W/H/00, NARA, Date 10/24/00

-- We are prepared to explore possible new aid assistance, but, as the Indians agree, we think our economic relations should emphasize trade rather than aid. In any case, our aid resources are severely limited.

-- On the proposed Joint Commission, we will be happy to consider Indian suggestions. We want, of course, an arrangement that opens and expands contacts.

2. The Secretary's Visit

Indian Position: When they met in December, Ambassador Kaul told the Secretary that he would be welcome at any time. The Indians doubtless regard the visit as important to show better balance in their foreign policy.

U.S. Position: The Secretary told Kaul he would like to come and would try to do so during the first half of 1974. FYI. He has suggested sometime in March in a letter to Ambassador Moynihan, but subsequent Middle East developments could change this. End FYI

Your Talking Points

-- The Secretary has said he is interested in visiting India, hopefully before mid-year.

-- He is still interested, but the timing will depend heavily on the Middle East situation and developments elsewhere.

3. South Asia: Pakistani Recognition of Bangladesh

We recommend that you express pleasure at the move. (FYI. President Nixon sent messages of congratulations to Prime Ministers Bhutto and Mujibur Rahman. End FYI) An Indian/Pakistan/Bangladesh meeting is expected shortly to consider next steps in South Asia accommodation, including the disposition of the 195 Pakistani POW's in India against whom Bangladesh had planned to move war crimes charges. Bhutto appears to have gotten private assurances from Mujib, at the



time of recognition, that he will drop this demand. Meanwhile, the repatriation of the other 90,000 POW's, some 125,000 Bengalees from Pakistan, and perhaps 75,000 non-Bengalees from Bangladesh is proceeding well under UNHCR auspices. We have contributed \$3,150,000 to this operation.

Your Talking Points

-- Recognition is another major step toward normalization in South Asia.

-- We hope that India, Pakistan and Bangladesh can now tackle other problems, e.g., resumption of trade and communication links, and reestablishment of diplomatic relations between India and Pakistan.

-- You might ask Kaul how he views prospects for further progress.

4. Energy Crisis

Indian Position: Ambassador Kaul met Under Secretary for Security Assistance Donaldson on February 22 for a review of the Energy Conference results and next steps to deal with the crisis. Kaul expressed concern about the failure of U.S. fertilizer suppliers to deliver against contracts signed last summer. He showed interest in U.S. bilateral programs (e.g., offshore oil exploration, coal gasification, R&D and fertilizer production assistance) which might help India meet the crisis, along with multilateral efforts.

Your Talking Points

-- As Under Secretary Donaldson told Kaul, the U.S. is sympathetic to India's problems, and hopes that multilateral steps now underway will prove helpful.

-- You could recall the Secretary's point in his speech at the opening of the Energy Conference here, that the U.S. stands ready to provide technological skills to help boost fertilizer production to meet world demand.

5. Indian Ocean/Diego Garcia (Recommend you not raise)

Indian Position: As expected, the Indians oppose our plans to expand military facilities on the British-owned island of Diego Garcia. While both Mrs. Gandhi and Foreign Minister Swaran Singh have charged the move will increase tensions, the Indians have been relatively restrained in their criticism. They apparently seek to avoid making Diego Garcia a major bilateral friction point, hoping instead to take up the matter in a multi-lateral framework.

Your Talking Points (In case Kaul raises the question)

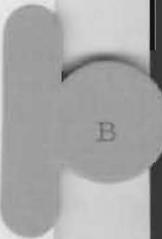
-- The U.S. is not seeking to increase tensions by this or any other move.

-- Our interest is in the peace and stability of the entire area. We believe that our proposed facilities on Diego can help us contribute to that objective.

-- This move is not directed against India or any other country in South Asia.

-- We have said that we would be receptive to any constructive suggestions as to restraints on military activity in the Indian Ocean area.





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Biography - T.N. Kaul, Indian Ambassador to the U.S.

Ambassador Kaul presented his credentials to the President on June 14, 1973. Prior to this appointment, he had served four years as Foreign Secretary, the senior career position in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. He is one of India's most widely-experienced diplomats, having served in Moscow, London, Tehran, Saigon, Peking and Washington (where he was First Secretary, 1949-50). During his tenure as Foreign Secretary he appeared to enjoy the full confidence of Prime Minister Gandhi.

Kaul is sharp, articulate and aggressive. More of an opportunist than an ideologue, he has found it convenient to show a fairly consistent bias towards the USSR and was acerbicly critical of the U.S. during the 1971 crisis. In conversations following the crisis, however, Kaul has indicated a desire to seek a new pattern for improved Indo-U.S. relations.

Like Prime Minister Gandhi, Kaul is a Kashmiri Brahmin. He was born on February 8, 1913, and received his education in India and the UK. He entered the prestigious Indian Civil Service in 1936 and served in a number of administrative and judicial positions before entering the diplomatic service when India became independent in 1947.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/96, State Dept. Guidelines
By W. H. M., NARA, Date 10/24/00