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ACTION SCA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	INL-00	DOFE-00
	PERC-00	DS-00	DHSE-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VCI-00
	FO-00	DIAS-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ARMY-00
	MFLO-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00
	ISN-00	NIMA-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	IRM-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	NCTC-00	SHEM-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
	ALM-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	/000W	

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O 091224Z NOV 07
 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3124
 INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
 AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY
 AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY
 AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY
 USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
 CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 004813

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/09/2017
 TAGS: AEMR, AMGT, KFLO, PGOV, PINR, PK, PREL
 SUBJECT: CONVERSATIONS WITH BENAZIR BHUTTO

REF: ISLAMABAD 04793

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (C) Summary: Ambassador spoke to Benazir Bhutto November 8 and 9 to express concerns for Bhutto's safety and to urge her to consider the possible effect her rally and arrest might have on polarization and violence in the country. They spoke again mid-day as Bhutto was trying to leave her house but was physically blocked.

B1

Bhutto

replied that she could not abandon the party activists who had already been arrested. Bhutto has managed to back the government into another embarrassing crackdown--and the government stupidly fell into the trap--while not exposing herself or her supporters to a dangerous public meeting. End

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 15 APR 2011 200800198

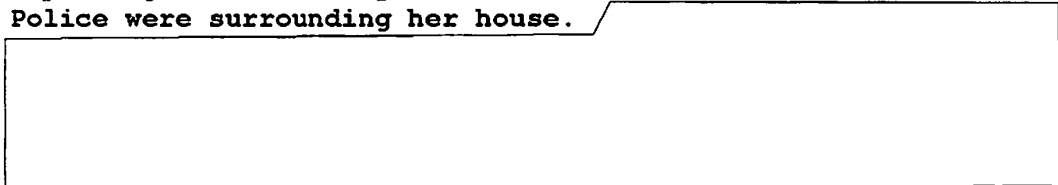
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2. (C) Ambassador called Bhutto at 10:00 p.m., November 8, to express deep concern for Bhutto's personal safety if she proceeded with the rally. Bhutto said that she appreciated USG concerns but she believed she had no choice but to go ahead. She said she was concerned about the vagueness of Musharraf's promise to take off his uniform and wanted elections to take place in January. Bhutto predicted there would be threats to her en route to the Rawalpindi rally and at the site. She mentioned two of them, an attack en route at an intersection and threats against the actual site in Rawalpindi. Ambassador again urged her to take care of her physical security.

3. (C) Ambassador called Bhutto again November 9 at 9:30 a.m. to urge her to take into account the possible political polarization and violence that might ensue if she pursued her plans for a rally. Ambassador said the situation seemed to be settling down and encouraged her to move in the direction of moderation. Bhutto repeated her concern for the election timetable and Musharraf's retirement as Army chief. She stressed the Pakistani government had arrested senior members of the Pakistan People's Party the previous night. The government even arrested one PPP member and all his family and guests. Bhutto stressed that if she did not support her PPP members, her leadership of the party could be called into question. She said she would keep the Embassy informed after senior members of her party attempted to enter her house for a meeting on November 9.

4. (C) On the afternoon of November 9, Bhutto called the Ambassador to say she was attempting to leave her house. Bhutto stated government authorities were preventing her from departing but had not yet served her with an arrest arrant. Police were surrounding her house.



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