

Iran -Pakistan, 11/79

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Operations Center

Pakistan Working Group

Sitrep No. 1

Situation in Pakistan as of 0845 EST, November 21, 1979

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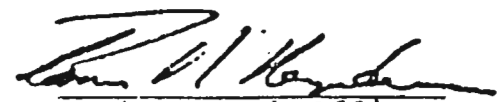
Angry mobs stormed American facilities throughout Pakistan the afternoon of November 21 following an 11:00 a.m. Pakistan radio broadcast reporting the Mecca incidents in an ambiguous fashion which left open some doubt as to a possible American role. One Marine guard at our Embassy in Islamabad died of wounds suffered in the initial assault. As of now, all other personnel appear to be safe, though the whereabouts of the residents on the Embassy compound in Islamabad remains uncertain.

Crowds burned the American Center in Lahore and occupied and partially destroyed the Consulate General there. The Consulate staff were evacuated under police escort at about 5:30 p.m. local time. All Americans in Lahore are reported safe.

Crowds in Karachi were unable to gain access to the Consulate and police were subsequently able to clear the area in the Center of the city where the CG and the principle residences are located. Peshawar is reported quiet and our Consul and his family are travelling in the consular district.

The Embassy in Islamabad has been badly damaged by fires which are continuing to burn. Those staff members who were in the Embassy at the time of the attack and had retreated to the vault have exited through an escape hatch to the roof and been evacuated to the British Embassy nearby. We have no report at this time regarding the safety of other Americans in residences or the Cub at the other end of the compound. Incidents were reported at the American school. We understand the school has been evacuated and the children are being housed with British and Canadian families. The American Center in nearby Rawalpindi was gutted but no one was hurt.


Robert Peck
Pakistan Working Group


Senior Watch Officer

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[Iran]--Pakistan--Nov. 1979

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