

No. 45

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*Memorandum of Conversation, by Lieutenant Colonel Stephen J. Meade*¹

SECRET

[KARACHI,] May 23, 1953—11:30 a. m.

ST D-9/3

Subject: Pakistan

Participants:

*United States**Pakistan*

Lt. Col. Stephen J. Meade

Governor General

Ghulam Mohammed

At approximately 11:30 hours I was summoned by the Governor General to come to his Residence at once. Upon arriving I found that the urgency indicated was more of a personal nature, in that he had just learned that morning that I was a member of the Secretary's party, and since we were "old friends" he wanted to take this opportunity to sit down and have a talk with me. Although the general tone of the conversation was personal in nature, the following salient points are worthy of note:

The GG expressed the same interest in obtaining economic aid that he had discussed with me during my visit in April this year, which I reported by cable requesting that such information be passed to State. He is anxious to obtain a loan of one hundred million dollars to help them get through the current economic crisis, such money to be used for rehabilitation, and advancement of economic projects in the country. (This is in addition to the request for the million tons of wheat.) He said that he does not desire this money in the form of a grant, but rather as a loan "from one friend to one that is in an unhappy economic circumstances for the moment." He feels that this can be repaid in approximately five years.

Regarding military aid, he is primarily interested in the acquisition of heavy artillery (by this I presume he means 155 MM and perhaps 8 inch), the establishment of maintenance services for aircraft, tanks and other items of general ordnance. At this juncture he said he knew what the reaction would be to such a request on the part of the American public, that they would have the suspicion that such equipment would be used against India. Again, as he has many times in the past, he promised that such military aid would not be used against India; further, that his Government

¹ This conversation took place at the residence of Lieutenant Colonel Meade.