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MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Pakistan Nuclear Weapons Program

To protect our critical security relationship with Pakistan and our vital strategic interests in Southwest Asia, we need to convince President Zia not to undertake certain critical steps to nuclear weapons. You personally warned Zia in December 1982 that certain activities would end US security assistance, and he has not crossed those lines.

Pakistan now has the capability to produce weapons-grade uranium. That Pakistani action would be as serious as those about which you previously warned Zia. Acquiescing in Pakistan's stockpiling of nuclear weapons material would gut our longstanding non-proliferation efforts.

As I noted at the NSPG meeting, your letter to President Zia should have a simple message: future production of weapons-grade uranium is no different than the other nuclear weapons-related activities you warned him about earlier and, consequently, would have the same implications for our relationship.

If we use less precise language, as in the State Department draft, we run a great risk of misleading Zia to expect that our assistance will continue even if he begins in effect to stockpile nuclear weapons. This is just not possible in the real world, because Congress would move overwhelmingly to end aid.

To deter Zia and thereby save our strategic interests, we need to make clear that future production of weapons-grade uranium will spoil the strategic relationship so vital to both our countries.

As Robert Frost's poem has it: good fences make good neighbors.

*Ken*

Kenneth L. Adelman

cc: Secretary Shultz  
Secretary Weinberger  
→ Director Casey

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DECL: OADR

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