



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

RELEASED IN FULLMEMORANDUM

October 31, 1984

TO: THE FILES

FROM: L/N - Donald J. Koblitz

SUBJECT: Inquiry by Investigative Reporter Seymour Hirsch
Regarding Houston Case

On Tuesday, October 30, Hirsch called repeatedly and I ultimately returned his call to let him know that the Department would be considering his request for a briefing later in the week and he should inquire after that time. In the course of the conversation, Hirsch said that the focus of his story was not on any failings of the Department of State but rather on the inadequacies of export laws. He said that he would probably be filming for another six weeks and most of what he has done so far is in Houston. He mentioned that he would be coming back to do Washington footage soon and needed to get such things as an interview with Cranston who would not be back until November. He said that the estimated airing time would be sometime in February.

Hirsch also mentioned various other segments that he planned to piece into the documentary on the Vaid case and the Pakistani weapons program. He said he had an interview with a U.S. citizen who had been on an exchange program in Pakistan and who had been the recipient of a great deal of information from Pakistani physicists delivered in anguished tones "with the water faucets running". He also said he had interviews with a Pakistani national now resident in the U.S. who would not talk to the U.S. Government for fear that his family would be killed and who had detailed information on Kahuta. Hirsch also said that he had considerable detail on Kahuta, including its physical security, and that although he had as recently as four months ago good contacts in the intelligence community, there had been a shake-up in the South Asian division and that he no longer had such contacts and therefore had not given this information to anyone in the U.S. Government. When I asked if he was interested in passing that on to people in the U.S. Government he said "only for trade". I told him that I didn't think anybody was interested in trading, but that we would let him know whether we could give him a briefing on the Houston case.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior
Reviewer

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At one point Hirsch also mentioned that he had information that Chinese assistance to the Pakistan program was a great deal more elaborate than the "Administration was letting on." He also quoted so-called classified and unclassified Pentagon studies saying that the Pakistanis would have a dozen weapons by the end of the decade. Finally, he mentioned an interview he had with one of McClure's staffers who he said recounted McClure's position as not caring whether the Pakistanis got the bomb so long as they fought the Russians in Afghanistan.

Drafted by:
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