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Department of State

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Date:	20/1/79

0 312113Z JAN 79 ZPF6  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE  
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 1374.

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FOR AMBASSADOR HUMMEL AND GOHEEN//////////

E.O. 12065XGDS-1,2,3 01/31/99

TAGS: MNUC, TECH, ENGR, PINR, PK, IN

SUBJECT: (S) PAKISTAN NUCLEAR PROBLEM

REF: A) NEW DELHI 1322; B) STATE 22212

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. WE HAVE POUCHED TO YOU ON JANUARY 25 A STUDY ON PAKISTAN. PAKISTAN APPEARS TO BE MOVING TOWARD ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES CAPABILITY WHICH POSES AN ACUTE DILEMMA FOR US AT A TIME WHEN WE WISH TO BE MORE

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Stephen Worrel, Senior Reviewer

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SUPPORTIVE OF PAKISTAN. IT IS CLEAR ALSO THAT PAKISTAN'S URGE TO ACQUIRE A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY IS STIMULATED BY THE FACT OF INDIA'S EXPLOSION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE VIEWS OF BOTH AMBASSADORS ON WHETHER WE CAN DEAL WITH THESE AS RELATED PROBLEMS. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD LIKE YOUR REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL FOR AN APPROACH TO PR. MINISTER DESAI AND WOULD WELCOME ANY OTHER THOUGHTS YOU HAVE ON THIS MATTER.

3. UP UNTIL NOW IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIA ON SAFEGUARDS, WE HAVE NOT LINKED THAT ISSUE TO THE PROBLEM OF

PAKISTAN. WE NOW KNOW THAT INDIA HAS GOOD INTELLIGENCE ABOUT PAKISTAN'S ENRICHMENT PROGRAM AND IS CONCERNED. MORARJI DESAI'S PRINCIPLED STAND AGAINST NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE TESTING WILL RAPIDLY BECOME UNTENABLE IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL TERMS IF PAKISTAN APPROACHES THE NUCLEAR THRESHOLD. THERE COULD THEN BE GROWING DOMESTIC PRESSURE IN INDIA TO RESUME WORK ON AN EXPLOSIVES PROGRAM PERHAPS LEADING TO WEAPONIZATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DELIVERY CAPABILITY. WE ARE CONSIDERING REQUESTING THAT AMBASSADOR GOHEEN IN A ONE-ON-ONE CONVERSATION WITH DESAI DISCUSS THE PROBLEM AND SUGGEST THE NEED FOR AN INDO-PAK AGREEMENT IN THE FORM OF A JOINT DECLARATION ON NON-DEVELOPMENT AND NON-USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS -- A PROPOSAL MADE BY THE PAKISTANIS LAST YEAR. A JOINT DECLARATION COULD PROVIDE ZIA WITH SOME RATIONALE PERMITTING HIM TO REVERSE HIS PRESENT COURSE AND TERMINATE THE ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING PROGRAMS. WITHOUT AT THIS TIME APPROACHING SOI WE WOULD APPRECIATE AMB. GOHEEN'S AND AMB. HUMMEL'S VIEWS ON THIS SUGGESTION.

PLEASE REPLY STADIS/NOBIS ONLY.

VANCE

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