Department of State

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISD-00 /001 W

-117124 061200Z /44

P 061050Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIDRITY 8504
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T ĮSLAMABAU 7624

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS DECAPTIONED

E0 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC PK FR

SUBJ: NUCLEAR REPROCESSING

1. AS REQUESTED STATE 196859 (NOTAL) WE ARE RETRANSMITTING TO DEPT AND JIDDA ISLAMABAD'S 6982 OF 18 JULY GIVING UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF GEN ZIA'S INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN JIDDA IN ARABIC-LANGUAGE AL NADONA AND AL MEDINA JULY 8. REPORTED STATEMENT BY ZIA INCLUDES FOLLOWING: "NO MUSLIM COUNTRY HAS ANY (ATOMIC ARMS). IF PAKISTAN POSSESSES SUCH A WEAPON IT WOULD REINFORCE THE POWER OF THE MUSLIM WORLD."

2. COMMENT: AFTER FRENCH CALLED PAK MFA ATTENTION TO THAT STATEMENT ON JULY 18, GOP SIDE HAS NOT SO FAR AS WE KNOW REFERRED TO IT AGAIN, NOT IN ZIA'S RECLAMA LETTER TO PRES. GISCARD AND NOT IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS. WE DO NOT FEEL IT WOULD BE TO ADVANTAGE TO GOF OR USG TO PUBLICIZE ZIA'S GAFFE AT THIS POINT. TO DO SO COULD MEASURABLY COMPLICATE ZIA'S ALREADY DIFFICULT DOMESTIC POSITION.

-- POSSIBLE FUTURE REFERENCE TO ZIA'S REMARK, HOWEVER, MAY PROVE SECRET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD DATE/CASE ID: 12 MAR 2007 200502061

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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USEFUL TO US AND/OR FRENCH IN JUSTIFYING FRENCH DECISION AND US CONCERN OVER PAKISTANI INTENTIONS.

-- WE BELIEVE PRESS (REUTERS AND BBC) AND PNA POLITICIANS PRESENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH CMLA ZIA ON POSSIBLY JOINING HIS GOVERNMENT HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF SAUDI INTERVIEW. EITHER OR BOTH MAY USE INFORMATION FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES AT ANY TIME. HUMMEL

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