



## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

**RELEASED IN FULL**MEMORANDUM

October 30, 1984

TO: THE FILES

FROM: L/N - Donald J. Koblitz

SUBJECT: Inquiry by Seymour Hirsch on Houston Export Case

On Friday, October 26, I was called at home by an investigative reporter, Seymour Hirsch. Hirsch told me that he was doing a documentary for PBS on the Pakistan weapons program and that Assistant U.S. Attorney Sam Longoria in Houston had given him my name. Hirsch went on to say that he had a good deal of very interesting film clips on the Houston case and wondered if I would agree to talk to him about the case.

I told him that most of that was classified and that I really couldn't discuss it, at which point he began to explain some of the information he had already gathered. He said that the undercover operators in the Customs Service had agreed to go on before the cameras with voice scramblers and hidden behind a screen to explain the operation that ended up inculcating Vaid. He also said that he had an interview with Vaid in which Vaid said that he was innocent and had been set up by the government, that the switches were not intended for a nuclear weapon, but that he thought Pakistan needed a nuclear bomb. Hirsch also did an interview on camera with Assistant U.S. Attorney Sam Longoria, the prosecutor in the case. Longoria apparently told Hirsch that the State Department had given him a number of briefings and impressed upon him the potential sensitivities of the case. Longoria also said that because of these sensitivities he had agreed to a gag order from the judge and a stipulation with the defense attorney that the Pakistan weapons program would not be brought up during trial. Finally Hirsch said that he had done an interview before the cameras with Vaid's defense attorney who was astonished that the prosecutor would agree to exclude evidence of a Pakistan weapons program at trial.

Hirsch then asked me whether we had intelligence, including intercepts, indicating that Vaid had been sent by the Pakistan government. I told him that I couldn't discuss such questions with him, but that it sounded to me like he was implying that the Administration had deliberately soft-peddled the Vaid prosecution. I told him that that was not

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior**

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true and that I would seek permission to have the Department  
brief him on our role in the Vaid case which was really  
quite a limited one.

Drafted by:  
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