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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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E.O. 12065: XGDS-1 3/23/2009 (BLOOD, ARCHER) DR-M
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, ENRG, UK, PAK, IN
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM-- SOME BRITISH INSIGHTS

REFS: NEW DELHI 4871 AND 4913

1. (S) - ENTIRE TEXT

2. DEPUTY UK HIGH COMMISSIONER EWANS (PROTECT) CONFIRMED TO DCM MARCH 23 THAT PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN HAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM DESAI CONCERNING PAK NUCLEAR PROGRAM. WHILE HE HIMSELF HAD NOT SEEN LETTER, EWANS SAID LETTER EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT BRITISH AND DUTCH FIRMS HAD BEEN EXPORTING TO PAKISTAN SENSITIVE NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT USEFUL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY VIA AVENUE OF CENTRIFUGE URANIUM ENRICHMENT. IN EWANS' VIEW, CALLAGHAN RESPONSE WOULD MOST LIKELY LIST SPECIFIC ACTIONS TAKEN BY HMG TO CUT OFF SENSITIVE SHIPMENTS TO PAKISTAN. EWANS WAS MIFFED THAT EXISTENCE OF DESAI LETTER TO CALLAGHAN HAD SURFACED IN INDER MALHOTRA'S MARCH 22 TIMES OF INDIA ARTICLE, AS WELL AS IN MANCHESTER GUARDIAN ARTICLE, ALSO BY MALHOTRA.

3. IN COMMENTING ON DESAI'S RECENT LETTER TO PAKISTAN PRESIDENT ZIA, EWANS SAID HE WAS TOLD BY FONSEC JAGAT MEHTA THAT DESAI

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