

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

#12

~~SECRET~~

July 10, 1979

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

FROM: THOMAS THORNTON ✓
JERRY OPLINGER ✓

SUBJECT: VBB Breakfast -- Zia Letter (S)

You have the letter to Zia of Pakistan and are holding it to discuss with Vance at the VBB. (S)

Much of the steam has gone out of State on this one and Newsom, at least, is shifting more to our point of view. I don't know how Vance will come out on this, but here are some talking points in case he wants to press the issue: (S)

- Getting Zia to put his offer in writing (i.e. that Pakistan will conduct no nuclear explosions of any kind) is not all that useful. It will not constitute the "reliable assurance" that would permit waiver of the Symington Amendment nor will it cut any ice with the Indians. (S)
- Although it would be generally useful to have, its very limited value does not warrant using the President at this point. Let's keep him in reserve. (S)
- Also, let's not pursue this until we can see how it fits into the strategy proposals that Gerry Smith is working on and will have ready in 4-6 weeks. (S)

If Vance insists and you want to go to a fallback, we offer the following in order of preference:

1. When Art Hummel sees Zia in a few days, have him suggest to Zia that he give us a written guarantee. (S)
2. If the President has to be involved, at least don't have him ask for a written guarantee; simply have him write that he was glad to hear of Zia's assurances. This will be an adequate record. (A draft letter along these lines is at Tab A of the package you are holding.) (S)
3. Yield to Vance and have the letter sent that State originally drafted (Tab B of the package). (S)

~~SECRET~~

ORIGINAL CL BY Thomas Thornton
 DECL REVW ON July 10, 1985
 EXT BYND 6 YEARS BY _____
 REASON _____

DECLASSIFIED
 DER DOS 9/23/09 LTR
 MR - NLSC - 2009-114
 BY ROP NARA, DATE 11/10/11