



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D. C. 20520

File Pakham
JN
Dew

CONFIDENTIAL

March 28, 1978

MEMORANDUM TO: T/D - Mr. Nye
FROM: PM/NPP - Allen Locke *AL*
SUBJECT: UK Inquiry on Exports of Inverters
to Pakistan

Michael Pakanham dropped off the attached with me this afternoon, and indicated the UK side may wish to raise it in London this week with you. This seems to be one of the "Gray Area" items which fits into our proposed NSG agenda item.

On the two questions raised in the paper, I agreed with Pakanham that inverters may fall within the spirit if not the letter of the NSG trigger list, if the British assumption concerning their end use is correct. I took the second question, saying that I believed any US machinery to control exports of inverters would be in the Commerce Department regulations with which I am not sufficiently familiar in detail. I told Pakanham that we have no information that the Pakistanis are doing any work with centrifuge enrichment. The British are checking further in Pakistan in an attempt to get more information on this problem. (I have asked INR to look into this also).

Attachment:

As Stated

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PM/NPP:ALocke:jmm
ext. 21835

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Authority NND668A

No 76

EXPORT OF INVERTERS TO PAKISTAN

In 1976 we learnt that the Pakistanis wished to buy a number of inverters (which produce variable frequency alternating current to drive ac motors) from a United Kingdom company - Emerson Electrical Industrial Controls Ltd. - for use in the Rawalpindi Ordnance Factory. Although there were reasons at the time to suspect that the inverters were destined for use in a centrifuge enrichment plant, there appeared to be no way under United Kingdom law by which this particular export could be prevented. No steps were therefore taken by Her Majesty's Government to restrain the deal.

Emersons have recently received an enquiry from Pakistan for a further export of the same sort of inverters. The specification has changed slightly and technical opinion in London inclines further to the view that the equipment is probably for use in a centrifuge plant. It appears that Emersons are in competition with a United States and a FRG firm (both unknown). Given our early knowledge of this intended contract it now seems possible that there is time to stop it developing further and, by amending the relevant regulations, to prevent the export if necessary.

We should be grateful to know:

- a) whether the United States Government regard inverters as being caught by the NSG Trigger List; and
- b) if so, how this relates to US machinery for the possible prevention of their export.

If time permits, the United Kingdom side would like to raise this issue in the margins of the meeting in London on non-proliferation scheduled for 30/31 March.



BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON

29 March 1978

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