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ACTION NODS-00

APPEALS PANEL ACTION: RELEASED IN FULL

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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R 040935Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7006

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DECAPTIONED

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MNUC PARM PK
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN'S PERCEIVED NEED FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS

REF: STATE A-1574

1. SUMMARY: GEN. ZIA AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL GOP OFFICIALS, IN CONVERSATION MAY 2, TOLD VISITING U.S. SCHMLAR THAT PAKISTAN NEEDS TWO OR THREE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS DETERRENT AGAINST INDIA, WHOM THEY PERSUME HAS MATERIALS FOR AROUND 20 WEAPONS. END SUMMARY.

2. STEPHEN COHEN, DEPT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AT UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, (PROTECT STRICTLY) HAS GIVEN US LONG DE-BRIEFING ON DINNER IN HIS HONOR GIVEN BY GEN. ZIA MAY 2 AND INCLUDING ADVISERS A.K. BROHI AND AGHA SHAHI, AS WELL AS RANKING MILITARY FIGURE GEN. CHISHTI AND OTHERS. COHEN IS REPUTABLE SCHOLAR WHO HAS PUBLISHED STUDIES ON PAK AND INDIAN MILITARY AND HAS BEEN LECTURING ON THAT SUBJECT IN PAKISTAN. AFTER CONTACTS ELSEWHERE, COHEN WAS BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF GEN. ZIA WHO INVITED HIM TO DINNER. CONVERSATION OVER SEVERAL HOURS FOCUSSED ON MILITARY SITUATION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN, DETERRENT NEEDS, INDIAN INTENTIONS, ETC. COHEN FOUND WHAT HE REGARDS AS CONSIDERABLE MISUNDERSTANDING AND MISINFORMATION ABOUT INDIA AMONG HIS HOSTS.

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3. PAKS RAISED INDIAN NUCLEAR INTENTIONS (BUT DID NOT REFER TO FRENCH REPROCESSING PLAND), AND IN ENSUING DISCUSSION COHEN SAYS THERE WAS AGREEMENT ON PAK SIDE (WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF AGHA SHAHI) THAT PAKISTAN OBVIOUSLY HAD NEED OF TWO OR THREE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS DETERRENT AGAINST APPROXIMATELY 20 INDIAN WEAPONS. COHEN'S AGRUMENTS THAT THEY HAD NOT THOUGHT MATTER THROUGH AND THAT OTHER NATIONS IN SIMILAR CONDITIONS HAD CONCLUDED THAT A SMALL NUMBER OF WEAPONS DO NOT ADD TO, AND INDEED DETRACT FROM, OVERALL

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Marvin Russell,
Senior Reviewer**

SECURITY FELL ON DEAF EARS.

4. I BRIEFED FRENCH AMB LEGOURRIEREC ON THE ABOVE
(WITHOUT GIVING COHEN'S NAME). LEGOURRIEREC LEAVES MAY
5 FOR ONE WEEK CONSULTATION IN PARIS FOLLOWED BY TWO MONTHS
HOME LEAVE IN BRITTANY.

5. DEPT PLEASE PASS TO PARIS, TEHRAN, AND NEW DELHI.
HUMMEL

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