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NEWS REVIEW
Date: 11 OCT 79

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E.O. 12065:XDS-1 (1/25/90) (PICKERING, THOMAS R.)

TAGS:MNDC, ENGR, TECH, PK, UK

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

1. (S) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY PICKERING CALLED IN BRITISH EMPASSY COUNSELOR CARRICK AND FIRST SECRETARY PAKENHAM JANUARY 26 TO DISCUSS PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM. HE SAID U.S. WAS NOW CONSIDERING CERTAIN COURSES OF ACTION WITH RESPECT TO PAKISTAN AS SITUATION HAD BECOME MORE COMPLEX SINCE HE HAD

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Marvin Russell, Senior Reviewer

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DISCUSSED IT WITH PATRICK MOBERLEY IN LONDON EARLIER IN JANUARY. AS UK HAD PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN TRYING TO FRUSTRATE PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS, WE WANTED TO SHARE OUR THINKING AT EARLY STAGE.

3. IN REVIEWING PAKISTAN SITUATION PICKERING MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--WE BELIEVE PAKISTAN IS MOVING MORE RAPIDLY TOWARD ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR CAPABILITY THAN WE HAD EARLIER ESTIMATED. THE SITUATION WARRANTS URGENT ACTION IN OUR VIEW.

--U.S. IS CONSIDERING SEVERAL WAYS OF HALTING PAKISTAN'S EFFORTS. AMBASSADOR HUMMEL MADE A STRONG DEMARCHE TO ZIA WHICH LED TO UNEQUIVOCAL DENIAL BY ZIA THAT PAKISTAN WAS TRYING TO BUILD A NUCLEAR DEVICE AND SPONTANEOUS OFFER TO ALLOW AMBASSADOR TO VISIT FACILITIES IN QUESTION.

--U.S. IS INCLINED TO ACCEPT ZIA'S INSPECTION OFFER BUT IS CONSIDERING HOW BEST TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.

--DIPLOMATIC MOVES ARE ALSO BEING CONSIDERED, INCLUDING POSSIBLE DISCUSSIONS DURING DENG XIAOPING'S VISIT ON THE THREAT TO THE REGION PRESENTED BY PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM.

--U.S. AT EARLY DATE WANTS TO HAVE TECHNICAL TALKS WITH SEVERAL SUPPLIER GOVERNMENTS TO RESTRICT FURTHER PAKISTAN'S ACCESS TO ENRICHMENT PLANT COMPONENTS. WE WILL BE COMMUNICATING WITH MOBERLEY TO ASK THAT HE RECEIVE A TECHNICAL TEAM, PERHAPS NEXT WEEK.

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WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING BRITISH VIEWS ON PAKISTAN. THIS SUBJECT MAY COME UP NEXT WEEK IN THE SECRETARY'S BILATERALS WITH DAVID OWEN.

4. FOR LONDON. TEXT OF PICKERING TO MURPHY LETTER ON TECHNICAL TALKS WITH SUPPLIERS WILL BE CABLED LATER. VANCE

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