

June 18, 1980

**Confidential Note from R.D. Lavers (South Asia
Department) to Mr. Roberts (Joint Nuclear Unit),
'Pakistan Nuclear: Panorama Programme, 16 June**

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Mr Roberts
JNU

PAKISTAN NUCLEAR: PANORAMA PROGRAMME, 16 JUNE

1. Thank you for letting me see your draft telegram to Islamabad reporting on this programme. I wonder if I can suggest a different formulation for the press line in the final paragraph:-

News Department were not asked specific questions about the programme but received questions on whether the nuclear issue was raised during the call by Agha Shahi on 17 June. This they refused to confirm or deny. If additional questions are received on the Pakistan nuclear programme they will say on the record that HMG would view with great concern indications that any non-nuclear state is seeking to develop a nuclear explosive device for whatever declared purpose. In answer to further questions they will say on the record that we have expressed our concern to the Pakistan authorities about the development by them of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities which could produce material for a nuclear explosive device. We have noted Pakistan's assurances that their nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes. We will continue to work to avoid the spread of nuclear weapons anywhere.

If asked about allegations that Libya is financing a Pakistani nuclear programme in exchange for weapons technology News Department will say on the record that Libya is a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Non nuclear weapon states party to that Treaty undertake not to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. In discussions with us the Pakistani Authorities have confirmed that Pakistan does not intend to transfer nuclear technology to other countries.

Unattributably you can say that it was regrettable that the film was shown during Agha Shahi's visit. But we have no control over what the BBC does. Nonetheless the programme does demonstrate the great public concern in this country about Pakistan's unsafeguarded nuclear programme. Acceptance by Pakistan of full international safeguards would demonstrate to those who doubt her that her intentions are entirely peaceful.

18 June 1980

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