

April 1979

Cable from Cyrus Vance, 'Pakistan's Nuclear Problem'

Citation:

"Cable from Cyrus Vance, 'Pakistan's Nuclear Problem'", April 1979, Wilson Center Digital Archive, The National Archive of the UK, FCO 96/952. Contributed by Malcolm Craig. <https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/280718>

Summary:

A telegram from U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance concerning the Pakistani nuclear program that was shared with British officials.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY)

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

SECRET
DATE

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR PROBLEM

1. (SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH PATRICK ROBERTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO BRIEF HIM ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE PAKISTAN NUCLEAR PROBLEM AND A NEW INITIATIVE WE PLAN TO MAKE IN ISLAMABAD. YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- AMBASSADOR HUMMEL MET WITH PRESIDENT ZIA APRIL 9 TO REVIEW OUR RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, TO REASSURE ZIA OF OUR DESIRE TO SUPPORT PAKISTAN TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE AND REAFFIRM OUR CONCERN ABOUT PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM WHICH HAS REQUIRED US TO APPLY THE SYMINGTON AMENDMENT.

- WHILE ZIA WAS THOROUGHLY UPSET OVER OUR APPLICATION OF SYMINGTON AND THE ATTENDANT PUBLICITY, HE WAS SOMEWHAT REASSURED BY OUR WILLINGNESS TO SEPARATE

THE NUCLEAR ISSUE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FROM PAKISTAN'S SECURITY CONCERNS ON THE SOVIETS AND AFGHANS. HE INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THE BROAD PROBLEM OF REGIONAL PROLIFERATION. HE DENIED THAT PAKISTAN HAS THE CAPABILITY TO ENRICH URANIUM, BUT CONCEDED THAT PAKISTAN IS CARRYING OUT NUCLEAR RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

- USING THIS REFERENCE TO RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND ZIA'S PROFESSED INTEREST IN BROADER REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, WE ARE PROPOSING TO EXPLORE WITH THE PAKS AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT BY WHICH THE PAKS WOULD FREEZE THEIR ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AT THE CURRENT LEVEL AND IMPLEMENT THEIR OBLIGATION TO FRANCE AND THE IAEA TO HAVE SAFEGUARDS ON ALL THEIR REPROCESSING FACILITIES. IN RETURN WE WOULD SEEK A WAIVER OF SYMINGTON TO PERMIT US TO RESUME AID.

- THE DETAILS OF OUR PROPOSAL ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT, AND WE WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH SPECIFICS AT A LATER DATE.



- IN ADDITION, WE PLAN TO SHOW THE PAKS OVERHEAD PHOTOGRAPHY AND LEAVE WITH THEM THE LINE DRAWINGS WE HAD DEVELOPED FOR THE INSPECTION TEAM.

- WE WOULD LIKE TO CONFIRM WITH YOU THAT YOU HAVE NO OBJECTION TO OUR UTILIZING THE MATERIAL EARLIER AGREED ON IN THIS WAY. WE NEED A RESPONSE FROM YOU ON THIS POINT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE WILL BE BACK TO YOU ON THE SPECIFICS OF OUR PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT WITH THE PAKS

- WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS PROPOSAL IS A LONG SHOT BUT WE DO NOT THINK IT PRECLUDES ANY OTHER INITIATIVE NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION AND COULD WELL LEAD INTO THE SORT OF STEPS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN WE HAVE JOINTLY CONSIDERED OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

VANCE
BT
#2115

THIS IS A COPY
THE ORIGINAL HAS BEEN
RETAINED IN THE DEPARTMENT
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE
PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958