

**November 2, 1978**

**'Pakistani Reprocessing Plant,' US Embassy London  
cable 18055 to State Department**

**Citation:**

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**Summary:**

Comments by Robert Alston of the British Foreign Office on the State Department's "non-paper" on Pakistan. He questions the list of countries and expresses concern about the response of states with their own covert nuclear programs, like South Korea and Taiwan.

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SUBJ: PAKISTANI REPROCESSING PLANT

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1. IN MOBERLY'S ABSENCE, EMBOFFS SHARED TALKING POINTS AND NON-PAPER (REFTTEL) WITH ROBERT ALSTON, HEAD OF FCO'S NUCLEAR UNIT. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUERY PARA 10 OF REFERENCE, ALSTON SUGGESTED WORDING OF FIFTH TALKING POINT OF PARA 6. SECOND SENTENCE SHOULD BE MODIFIED TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "UK HAS TAKEN STEPS TO CONTROL EXPORT OF INVERTORS FOR SUCH USE,..."

2. ALSTON NOTED THAT UK LIST OF RECIPIENTS FOR THEIR DEMARCHE HAD BEEN BASED ON ASSESSMENT OF THOSE IN A TECHNOLOGICAL POSITION TO SUPPLY ITEMS IN QUESTION. HE ASKED EMBASSY TO QUERY DEPARTMENT REGARDING INCLUSION OF SPAIN AND BELGIUM IN THE U.S. DEMARCHE AND EXCLUSION OF AUSTRIA, AUSTRALIA AND SWEDEN.

3. RE USE OF TALKING POINT REGARDING UK ACTION WITH NON-RECIPIENTS OF UK DEMARCHE (BELGIUM-SPAIN), ALSTON SEES NO DIFFICULTY WITH INCLUSION OF BRUSSELS AND MADRID, BUT WOULD PROPOSE UKG BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO  
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MAKE A PARALLEL APPROACH EMPLOYING A SUITABLY SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THEIR EARLIER DEMARCHE.

4. ALSTON ALSO REFERRED TO A THIRD CATEGORY OF STATES (E.G. TAIWAN, SOUTH KOREA) IN THE UK LIST GIVEN TO THE DEPARTMENT IN EARLY OCTOBER, WHICH CONTAINED COUNTRIES THAT ARE CONCEIVABLE SUPPLIERS OF INVERTERS, BUT WHOSE POLITICAL REACTIONS TO AN EFFORT TO CONTAIN PAK NUCLEAR EFFORTS MIGHT NOT BE POSITIVE. HE WONDERED HOW THE US PROPOSED TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM POSED BY THESE COUNTRIES AS POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS TO PAKISTAN.

5. REQUEST RESPONSE TO QUERIES CONTAINED PARAS 2 AND 4, AND ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION OF U.S. DEMARCHE IN OTHER CAPITALS IN ORDER THAT UK MAY MAKE ITS PARALLEL APPROACH IN MADRID AND BRUSSELS.

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