

November 17, 1978

**'Achieving USG Nonproliferation Objectives in
Pakistan,' US Embassy India Cable 17682**

Citation:

"'Achieving USG Nonproliferation Objectives in Pakistan,' US Embassy India Cable 17682", November 17, 1978, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Mandatory Declassification Review request. Obtained and contributed by William Burr and included in NPIHP Research Update #3.

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Summary:

U.S. Ambassador to India reports that the Indian government is aware that the U.S. believes Pakistan seeks nuclear weapons capability. An Indian diplomat informed him that Pakistan was two to three years away from nuclear capability.

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TAGS: MNUC, TECH, PEPR, JN, PK, US
SUBJECT: ACHIEVING USG NONPROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES IN PAKISTAN

REFS: A. ISLAMABAD 11119; B. STATE 290757

THE GOI HAS KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT WE BELIEVE PAKISTAN
DO BE BENT ON ACHIEVING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY. THAT WE
HAVE SUCH SUSPICIONS HAS CONFIRMED TO THEM DURING NYE'S RECENT
VISIT HERE; HOWEVER, SO FAR AS I KNOW WE HAVE OFFERED THE INDIANS
NO FACTUAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT OUR VIEW.

IN ANY CASE THE GOI HAS ITS OWN GROUNDS FOR THE SAME
BELIEF. UNTIL RECENTLY IN TALKS WITH US GOI LEADERS HAD
INDICATED LITTLE CONCERN OVER PAKISTAN'S INTENTIONS AND
CAPABILITIES IN NUCLEAR-WEAPONS AREA. LAST WEEK HOWEVER, V.
SHANKAR WHO UNTERFERED TO ME THAT GOI NOW BELIEVES THAT PAKISTAN
IS WITHIN TWO OR THREE YEARS OF THE AFOREMENTIONED TARGET
AND HAS HELP FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY WHOSE IDENTITY HE WOULD NOT
DIVULGE. WHEN I SAID THAT THIS TIMETABLE DID NOT SQUARE
AT ALL WITH OUR CALCULATIONS, SHAKAR SAID HE HAD
CONFIDENCE IN HIS INFORMATION.

FOIA B3

MADE AT MY REQUEST, TO FIND OUT SOMETHING ABOUT WHERE
SHANKAR GOT HIS INFORMATION HAS DRAWN A BLANK. MY
PERSONAL HUNCH IS THAT SHANKAR IS ON LESS FIRM GROUND

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HERE THEN HE WANTED ME TO BELIEVE. THIS IS NOT TO SAY
THAT HE WAS CONSCIOUSLY DISSEMBLING, BUT THAT LIKE OTHER
INDIANS HE TENDS TO ACCEPT UNCRITICALLY THE WORST
POSSIBILITIES WHERE PAKISTAN IS CONCERNED.

3. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT THIS TO ISLAMABAD AND OTHERS
AS DESIRED.
GOHEEN

EOT

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