

November 21, 1981

Secretary of State Alexander Haig to Senator Mark Hatfield (R-Or)

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Summary:

Secretary of State Haig writes to Senator Mark Hatfield (R-OR) to explain possible U.S. courses of action with regards to military and economic aid should Pakistan test a nuclear weapon. A test, Haig said, would "in all probability" lead to an end of economic and military support.

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Original Addressee via Special S/S-I Courier.
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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Lawrence R. ...

Dear Senator Hatfield:

I am writing in regard to our proposed program for military and economic assistance for Pakistan. The effect on our relations of the explosion of a nuclear device by Pakistan would be most severe. While I can conceive of scenarios gravely threatening U.S. national security or our interest in limiting a nuclear arms race under which we might wish to continue our aid, this outcome seems most unlikely and unrealistic. In all probability we would choose to cut off our assistance and major sales programs. The Government of Pakistan is fully aware of this probability.

Our policies regarding human rights and the encouragement of pluralistic societies will be seriously applied in Pakistan. We will take early opportunities to urge the protection of the rights of individuals and, as we are able, to promote institutions responsive to the desires of the Pakistani people. However, there is a limited tradition of representative government in Pakistan which I must take into account in carrying out this policy.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

The Honorable
Mark O. Hatfield,
United States Senate.

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