

**December 15, 1995**

**Draft State Department Telegram to US Embassy  
Beijing, 'Possible Indian Nuclear Test'**

**Citation:**

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**Summary:**

The State Department writes to Islamabad urging Pakistan to not react if in fact India chooses to launch a nuclear test. On 15 December the New York Times published a story by Tim Weiner, under the headline "US Suspects India Prepares to Conduct Nuclear Test." While some Indian journalists and policy experts were convinced that the story was a US government plant, Weiner had simply used due diligence in pursuing a lead from a non-government expert on nuclear proliferation issues. Worried that the story would exacerbate regional tensions by encouraging Pakistan to "act in a manner that jeopardizes our nonproliferation efforts in South Asia," the Department wanted to enlist the Chinese to encourage the Pakistanis to "exercise restraint in response to these reports."

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