SECRET

INR/RNA/SDMCOCHRAN/WDHOWELLS/MMH
4/21/72
INR/RNA/CFJONES

NEA/INC: AEQUAINTON
INR/DDC: RHADDOW

S/S: MR. ELIOT

ROUTINE LONDON, OTTAWA
ROUTINE NEW DELHI
EXDIS
NOFORN

SUBJ: INDIAN NUCLEAR INTENTIONS
REF: LONDON 3414

1. DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO RECEIVED QUERY FROM CANADIAN EMBASSY REGARDING NATURE OF INTELLIGENCE WHICH PROMPTED RECENT REVIEW OF INDIAN NUCLEAR INTENTIONS.

2. OUR INTEREST IN RE-CONSIDERING ASSESSMENT INDIAN INTENTIONS STIMULATED BY SMALL SPATE OF REPORTS AT TURN OF YEAR. IN VIEW GREAT SENSITIVITY OF SOURCES, DISCLOSURE OF DETAILS OF REPORTS NOT RPT NOT POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, THESE REPORTS SUFFICIENT IN NUMBER AND ADEQUATELY DIVERSE IN SOURCE TO PERMIT CONCLUSION THAT, AT VERY LEAST, RUMORS CIRCULATING IN NEW DELHI THAT TEST IMMINENT REQUIRED FURTHER SCRUTINY. ALTHOUGH NONE OF THESE REPORTS WOULD HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT IN ISOLATION, THEIR CONGRUITY, APPARENT RELIABILITY AND SEEMING CREDIBILITY, WHEN LAID AGAINST LOGIC OF SITUATION, WARRANTED REVIEW AND UPDATING OF OUR PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS RE INDIAN INTENTION.

3. WE ARE PLANNING CONVEY SUBSTANCE PARA 2 TO BRITISH AND CANADA EMBASSY HERE. SHOULD WILFORD RAISE ISSUE WITH YOU AGAIN, YOU MAY DO SAME.

SECRET/EXDIS/NORORN