November 02, 1978
'IAEA Safeguards in Pakistan,' State Department cable 279373 to US Embassy Austria, for US Mission IAEA

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Summary:

The State Department asks for information on a letter sent by IAEA Director General Eklund to Munir Khan of the Pakistani atomic energy commission. IAEA inspectors in Pakistan should also be alert to "any questionable use of facilities or disposition of safeguarded material."

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Contents:

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1. RECENT ACTIONS BY PAKISTAN HAVE GENERATED CONCERN AT HIGHEST USG LEVELS REGARDING THE INTENTIONS OF THAT GOVERNMENT IN ITS ATOMIC ENERGY ACTIVITIES. DR. NYE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY RECENTLY TO DISCUSS WITH IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL EKLUND SOME ASPECTS OF OUR CONCERN. AT THAT TIME, EKLUND INDICATED THAT HE HAD WRITTEN OR WOULD WRITE TO SECRET
SECRET

Munir Khan, Chairman of PAEC, asking for an explanation of a recent statement by Bhutto concerning steps his regime had taken to prepare for the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

2. We would be interested in learning the contents of Eklund's letter to Khan and of any response.

3. In addition, the mission should discreetly convey to the IAEA Secretariat at an appropriate level (e.g., Eklund or Assistant Director General Fischer) that, in carrying out its safeguards activities in Pakistan, its inspectors would be well advised to be particularly sensitive for any questionable use of facilities or disposition of safeguarded material, especially at Kanupir, and any activities in hot cells (perhaps newly constructed) at Pinstech involving material required to be safeguarded by IAEA. Christopher