November 17, 1978
'Achieving USG Nonproliferation Objectives in Pakistan,'
US Embassy India Cable 17682

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Review request. Obtained and contributed by William Burr and included in NPIHP Research Update
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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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- Scan of Original Document
SECRET

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

INTELLIGENCE: NON-STATE

SECRET

DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 1978

FROM: AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN

TO: SECSTATE

SUBJECT: NONPROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES IN PAKISTAN

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DECAPTIONED

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THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (GOI) HAS KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT WE BELIEVE PAKISTAN TO BE WELL ON THE WAY TO ACQUIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY. THAT WE HAVE SUCH SUSPICIONS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED TO US DURING MY EIGHTH'S RECENT VISIT TO INDIA. IF OUR powered government has offered the INDIANS a 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. HANKAR added, in a conversation that we have been making available to the GOI within two or three years of the aforementioned target time, and has helped his foreign colleagues who rely on him that the timetable we would not be revealed. When I said that this timetable did not square with our calculations, HANKAR said that he had confidence in his sources. FOIA B3

As I requested, to find out something about where HANKAR got his information, he has drawn a blank. My personal hunch is that HANKAR is on less firm ground SECRET.
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