November 24, 1978
'Pakistan Proliferation Problem,' US Embassy United Kingdom Cable 19322 to Department of State

Citation:


Summary:

Britain agrees with U.S. thinking on the matter of State Department cable 292469, except on its approach to the Soviet Union. Britain decided not to approach the Soviets because they were unsure whether Moscow’s “commitment to nonproliferation outweighs their special political interests vis-à-vis Pakistan.”

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Original Language:

English

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USIAEA PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR SMITH

E. D. 11552: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, PK, UK
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN PROLIFERATION PROBLEM

REF: STATE 292469

1. CONTENTS OF REFERENCE PASSED TO ROBERT ALSTON, FCDO, NOVEMBER 29. AFTER CONSULTATION, ALSTON REPORTED HMG AGREEMENT WITH PARAS (1), (3) AND (4).

2. USG PROPOSALS RE SOVIETS IN PARA (2) GIVE HMG SOME CONCERN. HMG HAD REVIEWED POSSIBILITY OF AN APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS AT TIME OF THEIR OWN DEMARCHE ON THIS MATTER. DECISION WAS NEGATIVE ON GROUNDS THAT HMG NOT CERTAIN SOVIET'S COMMITMENT TO NON-PROLIFERATION OUTWEIGHTS THEIR SPECIAL POLITICAL INTERESTS VIS A VIS PAKISTAN.

3. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, ALSTON SUGGESTS THIS QUESTION BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN ALSTON AND AMR SMITH IN VIENNA, EITHER DURING NOVEMBER 29 BILATERAL OR IN PRIVATE SESSION. BREWSTER

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