November 09, 1978
'US Demarche on Pakistani Reprocessing Plant,' US Embassy Japan cable 19874 to State Department

Citation:


Summary:

Japanese response to U.S. demarche on Pakistani nuclear development, describing recent discussions between Pakistan and Japan that touched on nuclear issues.

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1. DCM passed non-paper and conveyed REFTEL talking points to MOFA Deputy Foreign Minister Masuo Takashima, November 7. Takashima, who had just recently returned from annual bilateral talks with members of Pakistani Foreign Ministry, said it was first time he had heard that nuclear explosive design and development work was possibly underway in Pakistan. He said at recent bilateral talks in Islamabad, only nuclear problem touched upon by Pakistani Foreign Minister was that of reprocessing plant from France. Pakistanis also expressed annoyance at USG "interference."

2. Takashima said that GOI shared U.S. views on dangers of Pakistani moves, although he conveyed his impression that Pakistan felt particularly threatened by recent events in Afghanistan and instability in South Asia. Takashima added that Pakistan's Vice-Foreign Minister had remarked ruefully that Cento was just a "piece of paper."

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