July 14, 1987
State Department Telegram 215122 to Embassy Islamabad, 'Maraging Steel Case: Press Guidance'

Citation:

Summary:
The Pervez arrest immediately raised questions in the media but the State Department would say little other than: let the legal system do its work, no speculation about Pervez’s intentions, and the admission that the Department had expressed concern to Pakistan about the “overall nature and direction of [its] nuclear program.”

Credits:
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Original Language:
English

Contents:
- Scan of Original Document
SUBJECT: MARAGING STEEL PRESS GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE ON PERVEZ ARREST IN MARAGING STEEL EXPORT CASE PREPARED FOR SPOKESMAN JULY 13. GUIDANCE WAS NOT/NOT USED.

2. BEGIN GUIDANCE. QUOTE:

-- S/NP PRESS GUIDANCE JULY 13, 1987

-- PAKISTANI NUCLEAR EXPORT CASE

Q: ANY COMMENT ON THE ARREST OF A PAKISTANI FOR ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTING TO EXPORT MARAGING STEEL ILLEGALLY TO PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM?

A: -- WE UNDERSTAND THAT A CANADIAN RESIDENT OF PAKISTANI ORIGIN HAS BEEN ARRESTED IN PENNSYLVANIA ON FRIDAY AND CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTING TO EXPORT SPECIALTY STEEL AND BERYLLIUM TO PAKISTAN IN VIOLATION OF U.S. EXPORT CONTROL LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO PAKISTAN'S VIOLATION OF U.S. LAWS AND REGULATIONS?

A: -- THE CASE IS CURRENTLY THE SUBJECT OF A CRIMINAL PROCEEDING, AND IT IS UP TO THE COURTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY VIOLATION OF U.S. LAW OCCURRED.

Q: DO YOU THINK THAT PAKISTAN SOUGHT THIS STEEL SO THAT IT COULD PRODUCE HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM FOR BOMBS?

A: -- I AM NOT PREPARED TO SPECULATE ABOUT THE INTENTIONS OF THE INDIVIDUALS OR GOVERNMENTS THAT MAY BE INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. THE U.S. HAS REPEATEDLY VOICED ITS CONCERNS ABOUT THE OVERALL NATURE AND DIRECTION OF PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM, AND ABOUT PAKISTAN'S ONGOING UNSAFE GUARDED URANIUM ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES.

Q: ARE YOU GOING TO SUSPEND ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN, AS REQUIRED BY THE SOLARZ AMENDMENT?

A: NO JUDGMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN THIS CASE. SHULTZ

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer