August 07, 1987

Department of State Telegram 244270 to the Embassy in Islamabad, 'Under Secretary Armacost Meeting with Zia'

Citation:

http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/118574

Summary:

Only a few weeks after Pervez’s arrest, Under Secretary of State Armacost traveled to Pakistan for wide ranging discussions with General Zia, but with a special focus on nuclear procurement and the uranium enrichment program.

Credits:

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English

Contents:

- Scan of Original Document
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Department of State

1. We have obtained a copy of the statement released by the IFA spokesman (U.S. foreign secretary) at his press conference on July 23. It gives much greater emphasis to the conspiracy explanation of the case than the text of the proposed IFA statement provided to the ambassador by the foreign minister on July 21. The statement released by the Pak Embassy in Washington on July 22 (Ref B) parallels each other in characterizing the attempted export as "the outcome of a conspiracy by elements who are opposed to the continuation of Pak-US relations and have been attempting to deliberately scuttle the passage of the 1987-89 U.S. aid package for Pakistan." The statement released by IFA makes several small changes and inserts the following additional sentences: "What started as a routine commercial inquiry was, in pursuance of the conspiracy, converted by Pak cover agents and their collaborators to appear as an "unmitigated crime" (or "outrageous violation") of U.S. law. Not all the conspirators and their collaborators have yet been identified but..."

2. Following is the text of the July 23 IFA statement with changes from the draft statement given to the ambassador on July 21 in parentheses:

BEGIN TEXT: The government of Pakistan has instituted an immediate high level investigation into the alleged attempt by a Canadian resident of Pakistan origin to export to Pakistan special steel from the United States in alleged violation of the relevant laws of the country.

ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION SO FAR AVAILABLE, THE

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. M-2008-00012 Doc No. C17625651 Date: 03/14/2013

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383-00-0031

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GO CALLED ATTEMPT APPEARS TO BE THE OUTCOME OF A CONSPIRACY BY ELEMENTS WHO ARE OPPOSED TO THE CONTINUATION OF SUPPORTIVE PAKISTAN-US RELATIONS AND HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO DELIBERATELY SCUTTLE THE PASSAGE OF THE 1987-89 U.S. AID PACKAGE FOR PAKISTAN. WHAT STARTED AS A ROUTINE COMMERCIAL INQUIRY WAS, IN PURSUIT OF THE CONSPIRACY, CONVERTED BY PAK COVER AGENTS AND THEIR COLLABORATORS TO APPEAR AS AN "UNMITIGATED CRIME" (OR "OUTRAGEOUS VIOLATION") OF U.S. LAW. NOT ALL THE CONSPIRATORS AND THEIR COLLABORATORS HAVE YET BEEN IDENTIFIED BUT AN ARREST WARRANT HAS BEEN ISSUED BY A COMPETENT COURT AGAINST A PAKISTAN NATIONAL SUSPECTED TO BE INVOLVED. IT IS THE CONSPIRACY WHICH CONCLUDED THIS SENTENCE IN THE DRAFT WAS DROPPED IN THE JULY 23 IFA STATEMENT.)

NEITHER THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN NOR ANY OF ITS AGENCIES HAS CONNECTED WITH THE ATTEMPTED EXPORT OF SPECIAL STEEL FROM THE UNITED STATES. END TEXT.

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