



**July 30, 1987**

**Embassy Islamabad telegram 16052 to Department of State, 'Pervez Nuclear Arrest Case—July 23 Statement by MFA Spokesman Gives Greater Emphasis to Conspiracy'**

**Citation:**

“Embassy Islamabad telegram 16052 to Department of State, 'Pervez Nuclear Arrest Case—July 23 Statement by MFA Spokesman Gives Greater Emphasis to Conspiracy',” July 30, 1987, History and Public Policy Program Digital Archive, Department of State mandatory declassification review release. Obtained and contributed by William Burr for NPIHP Research Update No. 24.  
<http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/118575>

**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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**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

- Scan of Original Document

CONFIDENTIAL  
Department of State

TELEGRAM

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 16052

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E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PARN, PHEL, US, PK  
SUBJECT: PERVEZ NUCLEAR ARREST CASE - JULY 23  
- STATEMENT BY MFA SPOKESMAN GIVES GREATER  
- EMPHASIS TO CONSPIRACY

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 15703 (B) ISLAMABAD 1546A  
- (C) STATE 225432

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. WE HAVE OBTAINED A COPY OF THE STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE MFA SPOKESMAN (I.E., FOREIGN SECRETARY) AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON JULY 23 (REPORTED REF A) ON THE PERVEZ NUCLEAR ARREST CASE. IT GIVES MUCH GREATER EMPHASIS TO THE CONSPIRACY EXPLANATION OF THE CASE THAN THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED MFA STATEMENT PROVIDED TO THE AMBASSADOR BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON JULY 21 (REF B) AND THE STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE PAK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ON JULY 22 (REF C). THE PAK EMBASSY STATEMENT AND THE PROPOSED MFA STATEMENT CLOSELY PARALLEL EACH OTHER IN CHARACTERIZING THE ATTEMPTED EXPORT AS THE "OUTCOME OF A CONSPIRACY BY ELEMENTS WHO ARE OPPOSED TO THE CONTINUATION OF PAKISTAN-U.S. RELATIONS AND HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO DELIBERATELY SCUTTLE THE PASSAGE OF THE 1987-93 U.S. AID PACKAGE FOR PAKISTAN." THE STATEMENT RELEASED BY MFA MAKES SEVERAL SMALL CHANGES AND INSERTS THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL SENTENCES: "WHAT STARTED AS A ROUTINE COMMERCIAL ENQUIRY WAS, IN PURSUANCE OF THE CONSPIRACY, CONVERTED BY UNDER COVER AGENTS AND THEIR COLLABORATORS TO APPEAR AS AN 'UNMITIGATED CRIME' IN 'OUTRAGEOUS VIOLATION' OF U.S. LAWS. NOT ALL THE CONSPIRATORS AND THEIR COLLABORATORS HAVE YET BEEN IDENTIFIED BUT . . ."

3. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE JULY 23 MFA 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 PAKISTANI 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

(SO 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 1987-93 US AID PACKAGE FOR PAKISTAN. WHAT STARTED AS A ROUTINE COMMERCIAL ENQUIRY WAS, IN PURSUANCE OF THE CONSPIRACY, CONVERTED BY UNDER COVER AGENTS AND THEIR COLLABORATORS TO APPEAR AS AN "UNMITIGATED CRIME" IN "OUTRAGEOUS VIOLATION" OF U.S. LAWS. 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. IN THE CONSPIRACY WHICH CONCLUDED THIS SENTENCE IN THE DRAFT WAS DROPPED IN THE JULY 23 MFA STATEMENT.)

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

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RELEASED IN FULL

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