December 17, 1987
Letter, President Reagan to Speaker of the House,
Enclosing Presidential Determination

Citation:

Summary:
Reagan informed Congress that he had “concluded that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear explosive device.”

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Contents:
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Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing you with respect to Section 620E(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, which requires an annual certification concerning Pakistan to permit assistance to be furnished and military equipment or technology to be sold or transferred to that country during the fiscal year. I made this certification for FY 1986 on November 25, 1985 and for FY 1987 on October 27, 1986.

Information on the status of Pakistan's nuclear program is provided to Congress in the annual classified report pursuant to Section 735 of the International Security and Development Cooperation Action of 1981. In addition, the Administration has fulfilled its legal obligation to keep the appropriate committees of Congress fully and currently informed of activities in Pakistan which are of significance from the proliferation standpoint. In this regard, information bearing on my certification will be offered to the Congress.

I have made my best judgment based on the information available to the United States Government, taken as a whole. I have also taken into account the fact that the statutory standard as legislated by Congress is whether Pakistan possesses a nuclear explosive device, not whether Pakistan is attempting to develop or has developed various relevant capacities. Based on the evidence available, and on the statutory standard, I have concluded that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear explosive device.

The proposed United States assistance program for Pakistan remains extremely important in reducing the risk that Pakistan will develop and ultimately possess such a device. I am convinced that our security relationship and assistance program are the most effective means available to us for dissuading Pakistan from acquiring nuclear explosive devices. Our assistance program is designed to help Pakistan address its
substantial and legitimate security needs, thereby both reducing incentives and creating disincentives for Pakistani acquisition of nuclear explosives. Pakistan is clearly aware of the inevitable cessation of our security assistance program should it acquire a nuclear explosive device. Thus, I believe the proposed United States assistance program will reduce significantly the risk that Pakistan will possess a nuclear explosive device.

A copy of my certification pursuant to Section 620E(e) is enclosed.

Enclosure:

Presidential Certification

The Honorable Jim Wright
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20510
MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE GEORGE P. SHULTZ
The Secretary of State

SUBJECT: Determination Pursuant to Section 620E(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended

Pursuant to Section 620 E(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2375(e), I hereby certify that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear explosive device and that the proposed United States assistance program will reduce significantly the risk that Pakistan will possess a nuclear explosive device.

You or your delegatee are authorized and directed to publish this determination and certification in the Federal Register.

[Signature]