

May 19, 1979
Letter from Israeli PM Menachem Begin to British PM Margaret Thatcher on Pakistan's Nuclear Program

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Summary:

Letter from Begin forwarding a memorandum to Thatcher on activities of the Pakistani government to build a nuclear weapon.

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Jerusalem, May 17, 1979

Dear Prime Minister,

I am taking the liberty of forwarding to you a detailed memorandum concerning the activities of the Pakistani Government aimed at producing nuclear weaponry.

Under a regime based on one-man rule the issue itself represents a grave danger for South-East Asia. To the people of Israel it could, one day, become a mortal danger. I state this in the knowledge of Libya's close partnership with Pakistan and, as the attached document reveals, their actual cooperation in the nuclear field.

I do not, Madame Prime Minister, have to cite the nature of the regime of Colonel Gaddafi nor his public advocacy backed by aggressive action, of a policy aimed at the destruction of the State of Israel.

One shudders at the spectre of what could happen in the Middle East, and particularly to the men, women and children in Israel, should the lethal weapons of mass killing and destruction be put at any time into the hands of an absolute ruler like Colonel Gaddafi.

The Rt. Hon.
Margaret Thatcher, P.C., M.P., M.A., B.Sc.
Prime Minister of Great Britain
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