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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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S E C R E T NEW DELHI 4960

EXDIS HANDLE AS NUDIS

E.O. 12065: XGDS-1 3/23/2009 (BLOOD, ARCHER) DR-M TAGS: MNUC, TECH, ENRG, UK,PAK, IN SUBJECT: PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM-- SOME BRITISH INSIGHTS

REFS! NEW DELHI 4871 AND 4913

1. (S) - ENTIRE TEXT

2. DEPUTY UK HIGH COMMISSIONER EWANS (PROTECT) CONFIRMED TO DCM MARCH 23 THAT PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN HAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM DESAI CONCERNING PAK NUCLEAR PROGRAM. WHILE HE HIMSELF HAD NOT SEEN LETTER, EWANS SAID LETTER EXPRESSED CUNCERN THAT BRITISH AND DUTCH FIRMS HAD BEEN EXPORTING TO PAKISTAN SENSITIVE NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT USEFUL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY VIA AVENUE OF CENTRIFUGE URANIUM ENRICHMENT. IN EWANS' VIEW, CALLAGHAN RESPONSE WOULD MOST LIKELY LIST SPECIFIC ACTIONS TAKEN BY HMG TO CUT OFF SENSITIVE SHIPMENTS TO PAKISTAN. EWANS WAS MIFFED THAT EXISTENCE OF DESAI LETTER TO CALLAGHAN HAD SURFACED IN INDER MALHOTRA'S MAPCH 22 TIMES OF INDIA ARTICLE, AS WELL AS IN MANCHESTER GUARDIAN ARTICLE, ALSO BY MALHOTRA.

3. IN COMMENTING ON DESAI'S RECENT LETTER TO PAKISTAN PRESIDENT ZIA, EWANS SAID HE WAS TOLD BY FONSEC JAGAT MEHTA THAT DESAI SECRET

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WAS FURIOUS WHEN WORD OF LETTER LEAKED, TO POINT OF ANGRILY ACCUSING MEHTA OF MEA COMPLICITY. ACCORDING EWANS, MEHTA TRIED TO MOFFLIFY DESAI BY POINTING OUT STORY HAD ORIGINATED IN ISLAMA-BAD, NOT DFLH1.

EWANS SAID UK HIGH COMMISSION IN NEW DELHI HAD BEEN ASKED BY LONDON TO COMMENT ON THE FCO PROPOSAL FOR A SOUTH ASIAN "RE-GIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY THEATY". THEIR REPLY HAD STRESSED PROBLEMS INHERENT IN PROPOSE FROM INDIAN VIEWPOINT: (A) INDIA WOULD NOT WANT TO BE FROZEN INTO POSITION OF NUCLEAR INFERIORITY TO PRC; (B) PROPOSAL COULD WORK ONLY IF PAKS WERE ASSISTED IN DEVELOPING THEIR OWN PEACEFUL NUCLEAR PROGRAM, A PROSPECT WHICH INDIA WOULD FIND VERY WORRISOME; (C) SOVIETS WOULD HAVE TO BE INVULVED IF INDIA WERE TO BE BROUGHT ABOARD! (D) VERIFICATION MEASURES WOULD APPROXIMATE FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS IN INDIAN EYES. UK HIGH COMMISSIONER, SIR JOHN THOM-SON, SAID EWANS, WAS PERSONALLY OF THE OPINION THAT NO REGIONAL ARRANGEMENT WOULD SUFFICE, WITH A NEW INTERNATIONAL NON-PROFLIFERATION REGIME IN SUCCESSION TO NPT BEING THE ONLY FEASIBLE SOLUTION.

5. EWANS SAID THAT SIR MICHAEL PALLISER HAD FLOATED FCU PROPOSAL WITH INDIANS DUPING HIS VISIT TO DELHT IN EARLY MARCH, BUT HAD GOTTEN ABSOLUTELY NOWHERE GOHEEN

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