



FSE 13 INDIA

Department of State

TELEGRAM

F800001-0474

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R 092222Z JUL 68  
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3403  
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

SECRET OTTAWA 1980

EXDIS

SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

REFERENCE: STATE 194929

1. USAEC SCIENTIFIC REPRESENTATIVE RAMSEY INTERVIEWED DR. G. C. LAWRENCE, PRESIDENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY CONTROL BOARD AND DR. D. H. DEWAR, CHIEF SPECIAL ADVISER ON JULY 9, REGARDING RESULTS RECENT SAFEGUARDS INSPECTION RAJASTAN ATOMIC POWER PLANT (RAPP-1) AND CANADA INDIA REACTOR (CIR) BY AECB INSPECTORS.

2. LAWRENCE SAID SCOPE OF CIR INSPECTION LIMITED TO SURVEY OF CANADIAN SUPPLIED FUEL. HE NOTED INSPECTION SO LIMITED WAS FUTILE FOR DETECTION OF WEAPONS ACTIVITY.

3. LAWRENCE REVEALED INDIANS DISCHARGING INDIA-PRODUCED FUEL IRRADISTED IN CIR AT LOW EXPOSURE WHICH PRODUCES WEAPONS GRADE PLUTONIUM. DR. DEWAR NOTED THAT MAX OUTPUT OF 12KG. PER YEAR FROM REACTOR POSSIBLE.

4. LAWRENCE SAID THERE MAY BE TWO REASONS FOR SHORT EXPOSURE:

(1) WEAPONS GRADE PLUTONIUM PRODUCTION, AND (2) CORROSION OF FUEL CLAD IN CIR NECESSITATING PREMATURE DISCHARGE. HE SAID TESTS SHOWED INDIAN FABRICATED FUEL OF GOOD QUALITY BUT CORROSION HAD BEEN PROBLEM IN EARLY OPERATION.

5. LAWRENCE COULD NOT COMMENT ON INDIAN REPROCESSING OPERATION

*1/3/*  
*Ottawa 1980*  
*7/9/68*

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NW57275  
By JDS, NARA, Date 7-16-19

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AS ACCESS WAS NEITHER SOUGHT NOR VOLUNTERED THIS INSPECTION.

6. IN THE OPINION OF THE AEC SCIENTIFIC REPRESENTATIVE HERE, THE UNSETTLING QTE DISCOVERY UNQTE REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF STATE'S 194949 IS PROBABLY THE EARLY DISCHARGE OF FUEL REFLECTING POSSIBLE PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS GRADE PLUTONIUM.

7. LAWRENCE SAID THAT AECB COULD ONLY SPECULATE ON INDIAN DEVELOPMENT OF WEAPONS DEVICES. HE SAID NO OTHER EVIDENCE, SUCH AS ELECTRONIC DEVELOPMENT OR SPECIAL METALLURGY ASSOCIATED WITH WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT, WAS OBSERVED.

GP-1. BUTTERWORTH

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