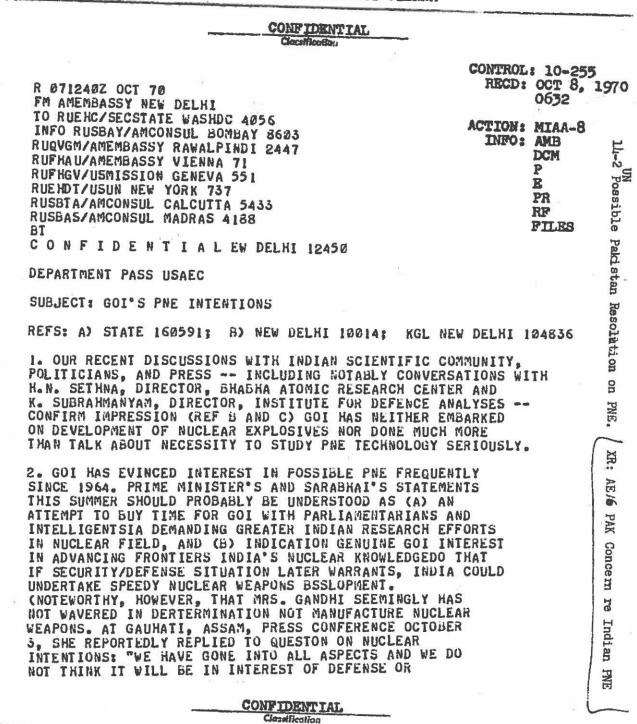


Department of State

TELEGRAM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA



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PORAL PS-452 (B)

Authority NND 76120

Department of State



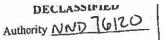
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OTHERWISE TO MANUFACTURE ATOM BOMBS. MOST COUNTRIES TODAY MAKING STOCKPILES OF ATOMIC POWER (SIC) AS MATTER OF PRESTIGE.") ALSO NOTE (A) MRS. GANDHI AND SARABHAI HAVE SAID EXPLICITY "MUCH STUDY" NECESSARY BEFORE INDIA COULD UNDERTAKE UNDERGROUND TEST, AND (B) PRIME MINISTER'S REPEATED DENIAL THAT INDIA PLANS EXPLOSION BEFORE NEST GENERAL ELECTION.

3. BECAUSE OF INDIGENOUS PRESSURES ON GOI TO STEP UP NUCLEAR RESEARCH, GOI MAY WELL BEGIN SERIOUS STUDY OF UNDERGROUND BLAST TECHNOLOGY, AS WELL AS ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND DISADVANTAGES. MEA'S UN DIVISION RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT DURING PRESENT UNGA SESSION GOI WILL ATTEMPT FEEL OUT NUCLEAR POWERS ON ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF PNE AND ON THEIR LIKELY REACTION TO AN LDC'S (READ INDIA) PNE (NEW DELHI A-495). ALSO, FONMIN SWARAN SINGH'S REMARKS IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADDRESS UCT 2 MADE EXPLICIT GOI'S INTEREST IN STUDYING THIS TECHNOLOGY.

4. EMBASSY UNAWARE IF USG HAS EVER EXPLAINED DIRECTLY TO GOI, US POSITION THAT NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL USES AND FOR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT INDISTINGUISHABLE, AND THAT, CONSEQUENTLY, INDIA'S USE OF US NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPMENT PNE WOULD VIOLATE US-GOI A CPUI LINGCINE UJ SULLE



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Classification

AGREEMENTS. WE RECALL THAT DURING EXTENSIVE NPT DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON AND GENEVA THESE POINTS MADE TO GOI AT LEAST INFERENTIALLY. ALSO, SOME RECENTLOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT ON POSSIBILITY OF INDIAN PNE HAS STATED THAT USE OF FOREIGN-SUPPLIED TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY SUPPLIERS ABROGATION OF ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS. HOWEVER, SOME DAE OFFICIALS HAVE IN PAST HINTED TO AMERICANS, AND TOLD CANADIANS DIRECTLY, THAT GOI DOES NOT AGREE THAT NPT COVERS ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS SIGNED PRIOR TO ITS ENTRY INTO FORCE AND THAT, IN ANY CASE, NPT ITSELF PROMISES TREATY WILL NOT BE USED TO INHIBIT "PEACEFUL" NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT BY NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS COUNTRIES. (CANADIANS SAY THEY TAKE SAME POSITION ON USE OF CANADIAN-SUPPLIED TECHNOLOGY FOR PNL AS DOES US.) BECAUSE GOI PROBABLY RECOGNIZES US POSITION ON PNE AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR FUTURE INDO-US NUCLEAR CCCOPEATION IF INDIA USED US-SUPPLIED TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOP EXPLOSIVE DEVICES, GOI WOULD DOUBTLESS PREFER, SHOULD IT DECIDE TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES, TO FIND ANOTHER WAY TO ACCOMPLISH PUJTOSE. IF ALTERNATIVE TO FOREIGN-SUPPLIED MATERIAL/TECHNOLOGY UNAVAILABLE, HOWEVER, WE THINK GOI WOULD PROCEED, USING WHATEVER AT ITS DISPOSAL ON GROUNDS EXPLOSIVES TO BE USED FOR "PEACEFUL" PURPOSES.

5. WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO MAKE HIGH-LEVEL APPROACH TO GOI RE US VIEWS ON US-SUPPLIED TECHNOLOGY BEFORE THERE IS REAL EVIDENCE OF INDIAN INTENTIONS AND TIMETABLE FOR DEVELOPING BLAST TECHNOLOGY. (INDIANS WOULD PROBABLY SEE OUR DEMARCHE AS ARISING FROM PAKISTANI IMPORTUNINGS, AND MIGHT RELATE IT PSYCHOLOGICALLY TO DISPARATE ISSUES IT NOT IN US INTEREST TO HAVE LINKED.) HOWEVER, US SHOULD CONTINUE TO PROBE GOI INTENTIONS IN NEW DELHI, GENEVA, VIENNA, AND NEW YORK (PARTICULARLY DURING GIVE HIGH-LEVEL EXPRESSION TO THEIR INTEREST IN PNE.) GIVE HIGH-LEVEL EXPRESSION TO THEIR INTEREST IN PNE.) GIVE HIGH-LEVEL EXPRESSION TO THEIR INTEREST IN PNE.) WE STRONGLY BELIEVE SPIRIT OF NPT INVEIGHS AGAINST WE STRONGLY BELIEVE SPIRIT OF NPT INVEIGHS AGAINST WE STRONGLY BELIEVE DEVICES, EVEN FOR UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES, EVEN FOR UNDERGROUND BLAST FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. WE SHOULD ALSO EMPHASIZE COROLLARY THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER SUCH USE

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-----Authority NND 76120 Department of State 1. 3 CONFIDENTIAL PAGE 4 10-255 Conditiontion OF US TECHNOLOGY ABROGATION OF EXISTING US-GOI AGREEMENTS. SPECIFICALLY, USAEC MEMBERS IN MEETING WITH VIKRAM SARABHAI SHOULD EXPLAIN TO HIM DIRECTLY RELATIONSHIP, AS US SEES IT, AMONG US-GOI AGREEMENTS, NPT, AND PNE. IN ADDITION, WE SHALL DISCUSS THESE RELATIONSHIPS AT MEA WORKING LEVEL. 6. BELIEVE PAKISTAN MISTAKEN IF IT SERIOUSLY BELIEVES GA RESOLUTION ON PNE WOULD STRENGTHEN ANTI-NUCLEAR WEAPONS FORCES IN INDIA (USUN 2028). MORE LIKELY, PAKISTANI-SPONSORED RESOLUTION WOULD CUT GROUND FROM UNDER THEM. PRO-BOMB INDIANS WOULD ARGUE THAT RESOLUTION, COMING IN YEAR WHEN CHICOMS EXPECTED TO TEST ICBM, FURTHER EVIDENCES SINO-PAK COLLUSION TO INHIBIT ADEQUATE INDIAN DEFENSE. KEATING BT 080910/rk CONFIDENTIAL Classification PORM PE-412 (0) 18