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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
January 10, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: LES JANKA
SUBJECT: Morning Press Items

ITEMS TO BE ANNOUNCED OR VOLUNTEERED:

1. Announcement of Bhutto Visit:

"The President has invited the Prime Minister of Pakistan Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Begum Nusrat Bhutto to Washington for an Official Visit February 4-7. The Prime Minister will meet with President Ford on February 5 and with other high level officials during his visit. The President and Mrs. Ford will host a dinner at the White House in honor of the Prime Minister and Begum Nusrat Bhutto on the evening of February 5. Secretary Kissinger conveyed this invitation to Prime Minister Bhutto during his visit to Pakistan October 31 - November 1, 1974. "

(Note: Back-up Q's and A's are attached).

[NOTE: This text has been coordinated by State with the Pakistanis. Begum Nusrat Bhutto = bay-guum nus-rot Bhutto. The Pakistanis specifically requested that Mrs. Bhutto be referred to as Begum (=Mrs.) Nusrat (her first name) Bhutto for the purposes of this announcement. She should generally be referred to as Begum Bhutto rather than Mrs. Bhutto.]

Q. When was this visit first mentioned?

A. Secretary Kissinger conveyed the President's invitation during his fall visit to Pakistan and it was announced in the Joint Communique issued in Islamabad on October 31.

Q. When was Bhutto last here?

A. He paid an Official Visit on former President Nixon in September 1973.

Q. When will the President make his promised 1975 visit to South Asia?

A. I have nothing to give you on that today.

Q. Why is Bhutto coming? Will there be a change in our arms policy?

A. The US and Pakistan have long had good relations and it is natural that the two leaders would get together for an exchange of views. This will be the first opportunity for a personal meeting between President Ford and Prime Minister Bhutto. But a month in advance of the visit I have nothing specific to give you.

[All further substantive questions could go to State, particularly on the arms issue.]

AFI
2-3-74

File - For whatever
use you want to
make of it. Lee

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR RON NESSEN DAILY MORNING BRIEFING

FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, accompanied by Begum (=Mrs.) Nusrat Bhutto, will begin an Official Visit to Washington tomorrow, (Tuesday) which will last through Friday.

The Prime Minister will meet with President Ford on Wednesday morning, February 5, at 10:30 a. m. at the White House. The President and Mrs. Ford will host a dinner in honor of the Prime Minister and Begum Bhutto at the White House that evening. Prime Minister Bhutto will meet with senior US government officials as well as members of Congress during his visit.

This is the first opportunity for a personal meeting between the President and Prime Minister Bhutto and this visit reflects the long good relations between the US and Pakistan.

Q. Bhutto has been saying he will ask the President to lift the embargo on the sale of arms to Pakistan. Will the President tell Bhutto the US will lift the embargo?

BHUTTO VISIT -- PAGE 2

A. I am not going to speculate on issues that may or may not be raised in the discussions between the two leaders, and particularly in advance of those discussions, I will note that the US has no intention of fueling an arms race in South Asia. As far as our general policy, our primary objective in South Asia is its long-term peace and stability. Within this framework our policies are designed to contribute to that stability and toward harmonious long-term relations between the states based on the independence and integrity of each. We seek good relations with all states in the area.

Q. When was Bhutto last here?

A. He paid an Official Visit on former President Nixon in September 1973.

Q. When will the President visit Pakistan and India?

A. I have nothing specific to give you on that.

Columbus Despatches

Phil Bulletin

Detroit News.

Atlanta Journal.

STATEMENT FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S MEETING
WITH PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER

February 5

President Ford and Pakistan Prime Minister Zulfikar

Ali Bhutto met in the Oval Office at 10³⁰ a.m. for 70

minutes. Secretary of State Kissinger, General Brent

Scowcroft, Amb/ ^{Henry} Byroade attended

on the American side and Minister of State for Defense

and Foreign Affairs AZIZ AHMED, Foreign Secretary AGHA

SHAHI, Amb to US attended on the Pakistan side.

SAHABZADA YAQUB-KHAN

The President expressed his great pleasure at this first opportunity to get to know Prime Minister Bhutto and to have a wide-ranging discussion of matters -- both bilateral and international -- of mutual interest. The two leaders agreed that their personal meeting will strengthen ties of close cooperation long existing between Pakistan and the United States.

The two leaders exchanged views on Prime Minister Bhutto's efforts to improve the economic well-being of the Pakistani people and the progress which Pakistan has made.

To help sustain Pakistan's own efforts and in view of the shortfall in food production and a continuing drought ^{in Pakistan} the President informed the Prime Minister that the US would be ~~able to provide additional~~

AS helpful as

PAGE 2

possible in providing quantities
~~quantities of wheat~~, beyond the 190,000 tons already made available this fiscal year ^{To Pakistan.} The President also assured the Prime Minister that the economic needs of Pakistan will continue to receive priority attention.

The President and Prime Minister discussed steps being taken to normalize relations among the nations of South Asia. The President expressed his strong admiration for the Prime Ministers' contribution to that historic process and reiterated American support for efforts to strengthen the basis for peace and stability in South Asia. In this context, the Prime Minister explained his concern for Pakistan's security needs. The President reaffirmed continuing American support for the integrity and independence of Pakistan.

~~The Prime Minister repeated his invitation given President Ford to visit Pakistan and the President said he looked forward to such a visit at a mutually convenient time.~~

The President and the prime minister reviewed the situation in the Middle East and the prospect for further progress toward a peaceful settlement.



Q. What was President Ford's reaction to Bhutto's request to drop the arms embargo? Did the President say the US would do this?

A. The President agreed to give the matter active consideration. Secretary of State Kissinger said the other day that he did not expect any final decision while the Prime Minister is here. But he also noted the peculiar situation in which Pakistan finds itself -- as an ally of the U.S. subject to an American arms embargo. I have nothing further on the details of the talks between the President and Prime Minister but I will make the following general points: (1) The U.S. will not fuel an arms race in South Asia; (2) We do not intend to take any measures to alter the strategic balance in the area; (3) We will continue to encourage the process of reconciliation in South Asia.

Q. How much more wheat will the US supply?

A. I do not have details now. I will let you know when we have something specific on that.

- 2/21/75
1. There are persistent stories that the U.S. is soon going to announce the lifting of the arms embargo against Pakistan and India. Did the President promise this to Bhutto and when will this decision be announced?

Guidance: U.S. arms supply policy toward South Asia has been under review and the President specifically told Prime Minister Bhutto that it would be given active consideration. I have nothing further to announce at this time.

FYI: If asked, you may say that the State Department will have something in a few days but I have nothing further to give you now.
End FYI.



Date February 7, 1975

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE
OCCASION OF
PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO'S
OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON

February 4-7, 1975

President Ford and Prime Minister Bhutto held cordial and useful discussions during the Prime Minister's visit to Washington February 4-7. They welcomed the opportunity to establish a personal relationship in the spirit of cooperation and understanding which has traditionally existed between leaders of the two countries. The President and the Prime Minister stressed their commitment to the strengthening of the close ties which have been maintained between the United States and Pakistan for many years.

The two leaders discussed the important international political developments of the past eighteen months with particular emphasis on the significant steps taken in furthering international detente, the vital efforts to secure a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and proposals to increase cooperation between developing and developed countries.

They also reviewed the important steps taken to bring about more normal relations among the nations of South Asia. The Prime Minister expressed Pakistan's determination to continue to play a constructive role in the search for peaceful solutions to regional disputes, so as to promote the establishment of durable peace in the Subcontinent. President Ford assured the Prime Minister that support for the independence and territorial integrity of Pakistan remains an enduring principle of American foreign policy. The two leaders also discussed their mutual security concerns in the context of the commitment of their Governments to the strengthening of regional and world peace.

President Ford expressed his deep sympathy over the loss of life resulting from the devastating earthquake which recently struck northern Pakistan. The Prime Minister expressed his appreciation for the contributions of the United States Government toward the relief efforts now underway.

The Prime Minister discussed the serious shortfall experienced by Pakistan in foodgrain production in recent months. He noted his concern with drought conditions which persist throughout the wheat-producing areas, a problem which has been accentuated by the unexpected delay in commissioning the Tarbela Dam. He noted, in this regard, his appreciation for the substantial assistance rendered Pakistan under the PL 480 program during the past several years. President Ford told the Prime Minister that the United States Government was pleased to be able to offer 300,000 tons of wheat under PL 480 Title I for immediate delivery, in addition to the 100,000 tons already made available during this fiscal year. The President assured the Prime Minister that Pakistan's needs would continue to receive priority consideration in determining additional allocations this year and next.

The two leaders also reviewed economic cooperation between the two countries. Prime Minister Bhutto described the important economic development programs now underway in Pakistan, including the high priorities placed on agricultural development and population planning -- areas in which assistance from the United States and other donors has made a valuable contribution. President Ford pledged continued priority attention to Pakistan's development assistance requirements.

Prime Minister Bhutto renewed his invitation to President Ford to visit Pakistan. President Ford expressed his warm appreciation for this invitation and reiterated his hope that the visit would be possible later this year.

FOR RON NESSEN

"Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto wound up his Official Visit to Washington -- from February 4-7 -- with his departure for New York this morning (Friday). I have a Joint Statement to distribute this morning." [This should take place at the Friday, February 7, morning briefing. The Prime Minister is scheduled to leave for New York around 10 a.m. and wants this statement issued as soon thereafter as is possible -- i. e. the morning briefing.]

- Q. Can we assume from this statement that no decision on the lifting of the US embargo on arms sales to South Asia was taken during Bhutto's visit?
- A. As I said on Wednesday, the President agreed to give the matter active consideration and I also indicated that Secretary Kissinger said he did not expect a final decision during this visit. I also refer you to the general points I made about our policy toward South Asia.

Q. Did the President and Prime Minister discuss a US base on the Pakistani coast of the Indian Ocean?

A. No.

Q. Did they discuss the Indian nuclear program and possible launching of a nuclear program by Pakistan? Would the US lift the embargo if Pakistan were to "go nuclear?"

A. I have indicated that they had a wide-ranging discussion, among other things on ways to strengthen the prospects for peace and stability in South Asia. But I have nothing further to give you.

Q. Will there be a Joint Statement?

A. We will let you know. *DONT KNOW YET.*

Q. When will the President visit Pakistan and India?

A. I have nothing specific to give you on that.

Q. *INVITATION / VISIT TO PAKISTAN
WAS NOT DISCUSSED.*

Q. What was President Ford's reaction to Bhutto's request to drop the arms embargo? Did the President say the US would do this?

A. The President agreed to give the matter active consideration. Secretary of State Kissinger said the other day that he did not expect any final decision while the Prime Minister is here. But he also noted the peculiar situation in which Pakistan finds itself -- as an ally of the U.S. subject to an American arms embargo. I have nothing further on the details of the talks between the President and Prime Minister but I will make the following general points: (1) The U.S. will not fuel an arms race in South Asia; (2) We do not intend to take any measures to alter the strategic balance in the area; (3) We will continue to encourage the process of reconciliation in South Asia.

Q. How much more wheat will the US supply?

A. I do not have details now. I will let you know when we have something specific on that.

STATEMENT FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S MEETING
WITH PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER
February 5

President Ford and Pakistan Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto met in the Oval Office at _____ a.m. for _____ minutes. Secretary of State Kissinger, _____
_____ attended on the American side and _____
_____ attended on the Pakistan side.

The President expressed his great pleasure at this first opportunity to get to know Prime Minister Bhutto and to have a wide-ranging discussion of matters -- both bilateral and international -- of mutual interest. The two leaders agreed that their personal meeting will strengthen ties of close cooperation long existing between Pakistan and the United States.

The two leaders exchanged views on Prime Minister Bhutto's efforts to improve the economic well-being of the Pakistani people and the progress which Pakistan has made. To help sustain Pakistan's own efforts and in view of the shortfall in food production and a continuing drought, the President informed the Prime Minister that the US would be able to provide additional

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quantities of wheat, beyond the 100,000 tons already made available this fiscal year. The President also assured the Prime Minister that the economic needs of Pakistan will continue to receive priority attention.

The President and Prime Minister discussed steps being taken to normalize relations among the nations of South Asia. The President expressed his strong admiration for the Prime Ministers' contribution to that historic process and reiterated American support for efforts to strengthen the basis for peace and stability in South Asia. In this context, the Prime Minister explained his concern for Pakistan's security needs. The President reaffirmed continuing American support for the integrity and independence of Pakistan.

The Prime Minister repeated his invitation given President Ford to visit Pakistan and the President said he looked forward to such a visit at a mutually convenient time.

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A. No.

Q. Did they discuss the Indian nuclear program and possible launching of a nuclear program by Pakistan? Would the US lift the embargo if Pakistan were to "go nuclear?"

A. I have indicated that they had a wide-ranging discussion, among other things on ways to strengthen the prospects for peace and stability in South Asia. But I have nothing further to give you.

Q. Will there be a Joint Statement?

A. We will let you know.

Q. When will the President visit Pakistan and India?

A. I have nothing specific to give you on that.

1. Can you confirm reports that the U. S. will give Pakistan 300,000 tons of wheat? Will there be a joint statement with Pakistan?

3/16/75 *MOIC*
GUIDANCE: ~~Yes, I can confirm that report.~~ The President informed Prime Minister Bhutto that beyond the 100,000 tons of wheat already provided the U. S. would provide an additional 300,000 tons of wheat.

There will be a joint statement regarding the visit of Prime Minister Bhutto to Washington, however, the time of its release has not yet been worked out. It could come either later today or possibly tomorrow.

FYI ONLY: Text of the Joint Statement is attached.

2. Indian Foreign Minister Chavan has cancelled his March visit to the United States, presumably because of the U. S. lift of the arms embargo against Pakistan. Does this act signal a deterioration of U. S. -Indian relations?

2/27/75

GUIDANCE: You will recall that Sec. Kissinger, in his press conference, characterized Mr. Chavan's reaction to the U. S. action as restrained and statesmanlike. The decision to lift the embargo does not alter in any way our basic commitment to continuing the recent improvement in our relations with India. ^{As Secretary Rusk said} We remain committed to building a long-term, durable relationship between the United States and Indian and we are hopeful that India will share our view.

Q - Is the President doing anything, or is the administration doing anything, to placate India?

A.

October 8, 1975

PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH AZIZ AHMED

"The President will meet with Aziz Ahmed, Minister of State for Foreign and Defense Affairs of Pakistan, tomorrow morning at 11:00 a.m. to discuss bilateral and other issues of mutual interest. The President knows Minister Ahmed. He last met with him during Prime Minister Bhutto's visit in February."

Q. [In answer to all questions on the substance of the meeting]:

A. I have nothing to give you in advance of the meeting.

Q. Is the President seeking the Pakistani to balance his meeting with the Indian on Monday? Or is the US trying to play some sort of mediating role between India and Pakistan?

A. It just happens that both Ministers were in the US over the same period of time, as is the case with many foreign officials here in connection with the UNGA. The President's meeting with Aziz Ahmed is a natural step in view of the close relations between our two countries. It was not scheduled in relation to any other meeting. As far as a mediating role, that is simply not the case. The nations of South Asia have been moving toward normalization of their relations in the Simla Process of negotiations among themselves. We encourage those efforts.

Q. When will the President visit Pakistan?

A. I have nothing to give you on that.

PAKISTAN

August 9, 1976

Q. Is it true that we are going to hold up economic and military assistance to Pakistan because of Pakistan's determination to get a nuclear reprocessing plant? If they forego the nuclear reprocessing plant, will we sell the A-7 aircraft?

A. I am not going to get into public discussion of the details of our bilateral relationship with Pakistan. The Administration position of opposition to national reprocessing plants because of their proliferation risk is well known. ERDA can fill you in on the details. Secretary Kissinger has just wound up his talks in Pakistan and I have nothing further to add.

Q. Are we "tilting" towards India in that we seem to be prepared to continue to supply nuclear fuel to New Delhi even though our assistance in the past may have contributed to their bomb, but we are strongly opposing providing a reprocessing plant to Pakistan?

A. This is absolutely untrue and there is no question of tilting towards anyone. There is no question about the President's opposition to further nuclear proliferation and we have made this concern widely known, including to Pakistan and India. The Administration's position on nuclear cooperation with India was most recently spelled out in detail in the hearings conducted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I have nothing further to add.

August 12, 1976

US-PAKISTANI RELATIONS -- SALE OF ARMS,
NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT

Q: Secretary Kissinger has talked about a compromise on the Pak plans to buy a nuclear reprocessing plant yet both the Paks and the French say they are going ahead anyway.

What is the policy on the plant for Pakistan and on a compromise? Even if the Symington Amendment didn't exist, should we cut off arms aid to Pakistan? Why do we continue nuclear cooperation with India when it exploded a nuclear device?

A: This matter was discussed as part of the Secretary's talks in Pakistan and France. He has clearly stated the desire of the USG to continue discussions quickly and without a spirit of confrontation. It is not appropriate to get into a detailed discussion on what kind of solution might be reached, or speculate on a hypothetical situation regarding US assistance to Pakistan, a situation which our discussions are intended to avoid.

The US supply of fuel to India relates to a specific contract. Our position has been fully detailed in statements to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Our strong concern over India's 1974 nuclear explosion is also well known. Our new agreements are much tougher than the earlier ones, in part because of this explosion.

In general, our concern about nuclear proliferation is not directed at any one country but rather at the whole question of the most effective means of avoiding proliferation which has such grave risks to mankind. It is a problem of reconciling the general concern about nuclear proliferation with the specific concerns of individual countries.

November 23, 1976

A-7's TO PAKISTAN

A: Is it true that the decision to sell A-7 aircraft to Pakistan will be slipped from the Ford Administration to the Carter Administration as some reports suggest that Kissinger has already told the Indians? Also, where do we stand on the decision to sell the aircraft?

A: We have been over this issue many times. As we have made clear, the request for the sale of A-7's to Pakistan remains under consideration in the Executive Branch. No final decision has been made and I have nothing to give you on the prospective timing of any decision. I am not going to comment on reports of diplomatic exchanges between the U. S. and the Indians.

ARMS-CARTER

WASHINGTON (AP) -- INDIA WARNED TODAY THAT A PENTAGON PROPOSAL TO SELL PAKISTAN 110 A7 ATTACK AIRCRAFT WOULD TOUCH OFF A NEW ARMS RACE AND IMPERIL PEACE BETWEEN THE TWO NEIGHBORS.

SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER RESPONDED THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO LEAVE THE FINAL DECISION ON THE DEAL TO PRESIDENT-ELECT JIMMY CARTER.

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID KISSINGER ALSO TOLD INDIA'S FOREIGN SECRETARY, JAGAT MEHTA, THAT U.S. POLICY AS IT STANDS NOW IS TO MAKE WEAPONS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN CONDITIONAL ON PAKISTAN KEEPING OUT OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS BUSINESS.

THIS IS TAKEN TO MEAN THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION TO CARTER WILL BE TO BAR THE SALE IF PAKISTAN GOES THROUGH WITH ITS ATTEMPT TO BUY A NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT FROM FRANCE -- A PLANT THAT COULD PRODUCE THE RAW MATERIAL FOR ATOMIC BOMBS.

THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND THE NEW U.S. CONGRESS, THUS, WILL INHERIT A CHARGED POLITICAL SITUATION. WHATEVER ITS DECISION THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION STANDS IN DANGER OF BEING TRAPPED IN PAKISTANI-INDIAN RIVALRIES.

APPROVAL OF THE SALE WOULD BITTERLY OFFEND INDIA. A VETO EQUALLY WOULD ANGER PAKISTAN, WHOSE PRIME MINISTER ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO ALREADY HAS SPOKEN PUBLICLY OF TAKING HIS COUNTRY OUT OF ITS MILITARY ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES IF THE A7S ARE NOT SOLD.

THE PENTAGON LAST WEEK TRANSMITTED ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT PAKISTAN'S BID FOR THE 1,200-MILE RANGE LIGHT BOMBERS BE APPROVED. BHUTTO'S GOVERNMENT HAD NEGOTIATED THE \$700-MILLION DEAL WITH THE LTV AEROSPACE CORPORATION OF DALLAS, TEX. IT DID SO KNOWING KISSINGER ALREADY HAD INSISTED PAKISTAN MIGHT LOSE ALL U.S. ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID IF IT GOES THROUGH WITH PLANS TO BUY

FRENCH-EQUIPMENT FOR TRANSFORMING NUCLEAR WASTE FUEL INTO PLUTONIUM. PLUTONIUM IS THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT OF ATOMIC BOMBS.

ALL THIS WAS GOING ON AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF CARTER'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN ATTACKS ON THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN ARMS SALES POLICY. CARTER TERMED THIS POLICY, WHICH EARNS U.S. CONTRACTORS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS YEARLY, AS CYNICAL AND DANGEROUS. HE PLEDGED TO WORK FOR A WORLDWIDE AGREEMENT TO STOP THE TRADE IN ARMS.

MEHTA MET KISSINGER AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT BEFORE FLYING TO NEW YORK. INDIA'S NEW AMBASSADOR, KEWAL SING, WAS WITH HIM. THE TALK RANGED OVER MOST ASPECTS OF INDIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. DESPITE SOME DIFFERENCES THE TWO SIDES AGREED THERE WAS NO MAJOR ISSUE BETWEEN THEM KNOW INVOLVING THEIR VITAL NATIONAL INTERESTS.

August 10, 1976

NUCLEAR ISSUE -- US/PAKISTAN/FRANCE

Q. Will the US and Pakistan try to work out a compromise on the Pak plans to purchase a reprocessing plant? If this cannot be done, will the US cut off military and economic aid to Pakistan should the latter decide to go ahead and buy the nuclear reprocessing plant?

A. As part of Secretary Kissinger's talks in Islamabad, he has discussed the nuclear issues with Prime Minister Bhutto.

The issue of reprocessing is very complicated but basically the President it is a matter of reconciling the general concern, which has over the risks of nuclear proliferation with the particular concerns of one country. I am not going to get into any further details on the reprocessing issue except to note that discussions between the US and Pakistan will continue in coming weeks in a spirit of avoiding confrontation.

Q. Would the President consider cutting off arms aid to Pakistan if it goes ahead and buys the nuclear reprocessing plant?

A. I am not going to get into a detailed discussion of our bilateral relationship with Pakistan or speculate on such a situation. The main point is that we will continue to have discussions on the nuclear reprocessing issue given the importance the President attaches to the whole problem of nuclear proliferation.

Q. Is the US picking on Pakistan? We have complained about their plans yet India has already exploded a nuclear device while the US continues to provide nuclear fuel.

A. Our concern about nuclear proliferation is not directed at any one country but rather at the whole question of how we avoid proliferation which could have such serious risks to mankind. We deplore the Indian effort in setting off a nuclear explosive device as inimicable to the efforts towards non-proliferation which is our overriding concern.

The US supply of fuel to India, however, relates to a specific contract and our position on continuing nuclear fuel supply to India under stringent safeguards was fully spelled out in hearings conducted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I am not going to get into further details.

Q. Is it true that the French will go ahead in any event and sell the nuclear reprocessing plant to Pakistan?

A. I am not going to get into a discussion of arrangements between other countries.

Q. What is the President's reaction to the French blasting us for criticizing this sale? Will this set back US-French relations or will Kissinger be able to sooth this over while visiting France?

A. Our relations with France are and will remain excellent. As part of the close and continuing consultations between the two countries over the past two years, the subject of nuclear safeguards and non-proliferation has been discussed. These discussions will continue.

Q. Can you tell us about the compromise that has been hinted at during the Kissinger trip, for example, that Pakistan and France would work out a deal similar to the one being worked out between the US and Iran?

A. We will be continuing our discussion on this whole issue and I am not going to get into details at this time.

Q: India has already exploded a nuclear device. Pakistan is developing a nuclear capability and there is a Soviet navy buildup in the Indian Ocean. What are you doing to control a potential conflict in the Indian Ocean?

A: I believe that nuclear proliferation is one of the most serious foreign policy problems we face today, one which promises to become even more serious in the future unless it can be adequately dealt with. Since I assumed this office, we have launched a series of initiatives aimed at reducing the risk of further proliferation of nuclear weapons. This includes negotiations with other nuclear suppliers toward strengthening safeguards on nuclear exports and determined efforts to make our views known firmly to countries such as India and Pakistan.

With regard to Soviet naval activity in the Indian Ocean area, this is why I have strongly supported a strong defense posture in the area, including my requests to Congress for essential facilities at Diego Garcia. I believe that a policy of peace through strength will protect our own interests in this area, without threatening the interests of any other state.

SOUTH ASIA -- US ARMS EMBARGO POLICY

Q: Mr. President, in light of Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto's visit to Washington, have you made a decision to lift the US arms embargo on South Asia? Is a US decision on the arms embargo linked to Pakistan agreeing to the NPT?

A: Prime Minister Bhutto and I discussed the important objective of achieving long-term peace and stability in South Asia -- a process in which Pakistan is already playing a constructive role. In this context, we discussed our mutual security concerns including Pakistan's defense needs. I told the Prime Minister I would give those needs active consideration.

Whatever the ultimate decision may be, the US will not help fuel an arms race nor act to alter the strategic balance in the area.

We will continue to encourage the process of reconciliation in South Asia. That process has made headway and we applaud the efforts of the states themselves to normalize relations.

The nuclear non-proliferation issue did arise in our broad discussions, but as a matter of global concern, not as an issue related to any other aspects of our discussion.

Q. Isn't the President's arms decision counter to our objective of not fueling an arms race? Won't it encourage Pakistani militancy and wreck the Simla Process (i. e. negotiations between India and Pakistan)?

A. State has addressed these points in detail and enunciated our basic policy toward South Asia. We do not believe this decision will upset the balance in the area. It involves cash sales only -- no grants or credits. The U. S. will weigh each request on a case by case basis.

Q. Why are we changing our policy?

A. South Asia has changed since our restrictions were first imposed in 1965. Today the parties are negotiating their differences and we encourage this process of normalization. We felt it was time to correct an anomalous situation -- an embargo against an ally with genuine security needs. We do not believe that our new arms sales policy should have a negative effect on our relations with the states in the area or their relations with each other.

Q. Will there be limits on sales to Pakistan or is our policy open-ended?

A. I believe it is clear from the statement released at the State Department that our overriding interest is in stability and in prospects for peace in South Asia. By a case-by-case review of requests we can determine our response with our principles in mind. This is not an open-ended situation.

Q. In lifting the embargo against Pakistan, did we receive assurances of nuclear non-proliferation?

A. Our policy on non-proliferation has been discussed with both Pakistan and India and our views are clear. I have nothing to add to the Department's comments on this.

Q. Will Indian Foreign Minister Chavan's trip to the U. S. (to attend the Joint Commission meeting here in mid-March) be called off? Will the President's invitation from Mrs. Gandhi to visit India be called off?

A. We have heard of no such plans, but I would refer you to State for any specifics.

Q. Is the decision a "serious setback" in relations as the Indian Ambassador has said?

A. The President remains committed to the building of a constructive and durable relationship between the U. S. and India. Our relations with India have been improving and we hope they will continue to improve.

Q. How long will the Congressional delegation be in Vietnam and will they visit Cambodia as well? Who is paying for the trip? What kind of transportation is provided?

A. The delegation will visit Vietnam and Cambodia for approximately one week. The Congress is paying for the trip. Transportation is being provided by Special Air Missions aircraft (military).

FYI: Members of the delegation include:

John Flynt (D-Ga.)
Don Fraser (D-Minn.)
Bella Abzug (D-NY)
Mellicent Fenwick (R-NJ)
William Chappell (D-Fla.)
John Murtha (D-Pa.)

Staff from State:

Lars Hyde
Ken Quinn
Frank Scotten

Joint Statement

President Ford and Prime Minister Bhutto held cordial and useful discussions during the Prime Minister's visit to Washington February 4-7. They welcomed the opportunity to establish a personal relationship in the spirit of cooperation and understanding which has traditionally existed between leaders of the two countries. The President and the Prime Minister stressed their commitment to the strengthening of the close ties which have been maintained between the United States and Pakistan for many years.

The two leaders discussed the important international political developments of the past eighteen months with particular emphasis on the significant steps taken in furthering international detente; the vital efforts to secure a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and proposals to increase cooperation between developing and developed countries.

They also reviewed the important steps taken to bring about more normal relations among the nations of South Asia. The Prime Minister expressed Pakistan's determination to continue to play a constructive role in the search for peaceful solutions to regional disputes, so as to promote the establishment of durable peace in the Sub Continent. President Ford assured the Prime Minister that support for the independence and territorial integrity of Pakistan remains an important principle of American foreign policy. The two leaders also discussed their mutual security concerns in the context of the commitment of their governments to strengthening of regional and world peace.

President Ford expressed his deep sympathy over the loss of life resulting from the devastating earthquake which recently struck northern Pakistan. The Prime Minister expressed his appreciation for the contributions of the United States Government toward the relief efforts now underway.

The Prime Minister discussed the serious shortfall experience by Pakistan in foodgrain production in recent months. He noted his concern with drought conditions which persist throughout the wheat-producing areas, a problem which has been accentuated by the unexpected delay in commissioning the Tarbela Dam. He noted, in this regard, his appreciation for the substantial assistance rendered Pakistan under the PL 480 program during the past several years.

President Ford told the Prime Minister that the United States Government was pleased to be able to offer 300,000 tons of wheat under PL 480 Title I for immediate delivery, in addition to the 100,000 tons already made available during this fiscal year. The President assured the Prime Minister that Pakistan's needs would continue to receive priority consideration in determining additional allocations this year and next.

The two leaders also reviewed economic cooperation between the two countries. Prime Minister Bhutto described the important economic development programs now underway in Pakistan, including the high priorities placed on agricultural development and population planning-- areas in which assistance from the United States and other donors has made a valuable contribution. President Ford pledged continued priority attention to Pakistan's development assistance requirements.

Prime Minister Bhutto renewed his invitation to President Ford to visit Pakistan. President Ford expressed his warm appreciation for this invitation and reiterated his hope that the visit would be possible later this year.

NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Background on Pakistan Reprocessing

Pakistan appears firmly committed to acquisition of a nuclear reprocessing plant (which extracts plutonium from spent fuel rods) from France. We have firmly and repeatedly expressed our opposition to this transaction to both France and Pakistan, including a Presidential letter to Bhutto. Pakistan has only one nuclear power reactor at Karachi, but eventually plans for 24 more medium-sized plants. Our position is that a reprocessing plant will not be economically justifiable for many years until these additional plants are on line, and at that time other solutions to the reprocessing problem such as multinational plants may be available. We feel that building a reprocessing plant at this time would raise concerns that Pakistan is trying to match India in developing nuclear explosives.

Congress has been quite concerned about such exports of reprocessing equipment and has recently passed restrictive legislation -- the so-called Symington Amendment to International Security Assistance Act. This provides that we must discontinue assistance to any country supplying or receiving nuclear reprocessing material where there is not prior agreement to place that material under safeguards and multinational controls, when available, unless waived by the President.



Q. Did Pakistan's nuclear intentions come up in the meeting with the President and other officials and was it raised in a context that would link a Pakistani decision to forego the nuclear option in exchange for a lifting of the arms embargo by the US?

A. I have already given you the background I have on the arms issue. As far as nuclear non-proliferation issues, the subject was not linked to the question of resuming arms sales but it did come up in the wide-ranging discussion which the President had with the Prime Minister but I have nothing specific to give you on this.

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Q. Can you elaborate on the 300,000 ton figure of wheat for Pakistan and how much will this cost?

A. The US has already given Pakistan 100,000 tons of PL 480 wheat in FY 1975 worth about \$18.5 million. We have now announced that an additional 300,000 tons for FY 75 will be provided bringing the total to about \$68 million.

NSC

Q. Were any other new aid agreements signed?

A. We have on-going aid programs with Pakistan which were discussed but I have nothing to announce on new agreements.

Q. When will the President visit Pakistan this year?

A. I have no specific dates to give you at this time.