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SOUTH ASIA

- Q. What is your reaction to India's initiative to improve relations with Pakistan, including possibly restoring diplomatic relations?
- A. Our policy towards South Asia has always been to encourage any and all efforts to see the states of that region reconcile their relations. We support any moves toward the reduction of tension and the increase in cooperation.
- Q. Do you believe that India wants to improve relations at this time with Pakistan because of Pakistan's close relationship with China and India's desire to improve its own relations with China?
- A. I am not going to speculate on the motivations of another country. I will simply reiterate that our policy has been to encourage the nations of South Asia to normalize relations among themselves.
- Q. Is it true, as reported from an interview with Ambassador Saxbe in New Delhi, that US-Indian relations are beginning to thaw and that the US will go ahead with development aid for India in FY 77 as well as with food aid? Has there been an improvement in US-Indian relations in recent weeks?
- A. Refer to State.