

OCTOBER 9, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

President Ford met with Aziz Ahmed, Minister of State for Foreign and Defense Affairs of Pakistan, in the Oval Office at 11 a.m. today for 40 minutes. Also attending the meeting on the American side were Secretary of State Kissinger and General Scowcroft, and on the Pakistani side, Ambassador Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan.

In the spirit of our long-standing and close friendship with Pakistan, the President assured the Foreign Minister of the continuing interest of the United States in Pakistan's economic development and well-being and of our continuing support for Pakistan's independence and territorial integrity. In discussing regional issues, the President reaffirmed American support for the efforts by Pakistan and other states in the area to strengthen the basis for peace and stability in South Asia.

The President affirmed that the United States remains very interested in continuing to work with the Government of Pakistan on the range of international issues affecting our two countries.

The President last met with Minister Ahmed during the visit to Washington in February of Prime Minister Bhutto.

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