

August 14, 1979

Cable from the American Embassy Islamabad to the Secretary of State, 'Letter from President Zia ul-Haq to President Carter'

Citation:

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Summary:

This document is a telegram between the Pakastani president Muhammad Zia and Jimmy Carter. In it, Zia protests at the recent characterization of Pakistan's nuclear program in Western media.

Credits:

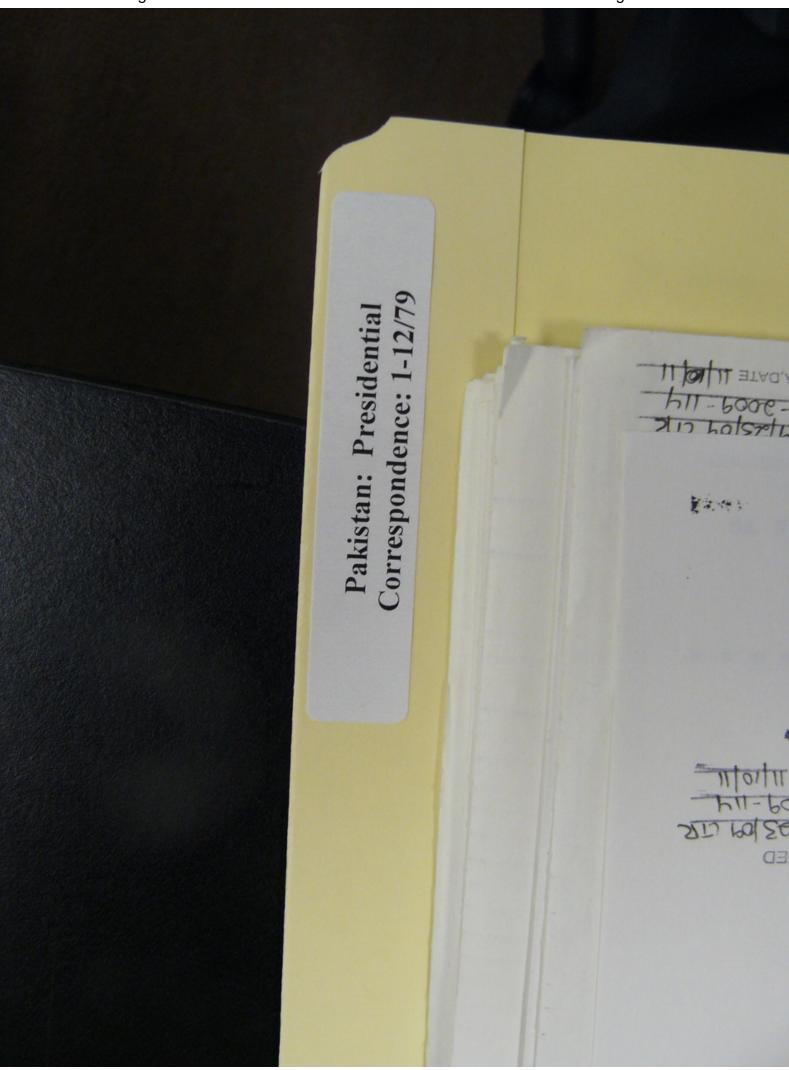
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E.O. 12065 XGDS 14AUG99(HUMMEL, A.W.) OR-M TAGS: MNUC, PARM, PEPR, PK, US, PPDC
SUBJ(S) LETTER FROM PRESIDENT ZIA UL-HAQ TO PRESIDENT CARTER 1. (8) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DATED AUGUST 9, 1979 FROM PRESIDENT ZIA UL-HAQ TO PRESIDENT CARTER AS HANDED TO ME BY FOREIGN SECRETARY ON AUGUST 14. AS NOTED IN SEPTEL, GOP EXPECTS LETTER TO BE DELIVERED BY PAK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 15:

QUOTE:

HIS EXCELLENCY

MR. JIMMY CARTER

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WASHINGTON

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND THE

UNITEDSEOX ES OF AMERICA HAS BEEN NURTURED OVER A LONG PERIOD. THERE HAS HARDLY BEEN GREATER NEED FOR ITS PRESERVATION AND REINFORCEMENT THAN AT PRESENT. THE DESTABILISATION OF ONE COUNTRY AFTER ANOTHER IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD HAS SERVED THE SOVIET UNION'S PURPOSES AND UNDERLINED THE FACT THAT PAKISTAN, A TRADITIONAL FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES, WITH WHICH IT CONTINUES TO BE ALLIED UNDER THE 1959 BILATERAL AGREEMENT, STANDS ISOLATED. FOLLOWING THE MARXIST COUP IN AFGHANISTAN IN APRIL LAST SOVIET THREAT TO PAKISTAN AND THE OIL BEARING REGION OF THE PERSIAN GULF AND ARABIAN PENINSULA HAS MOVED DOWN SOUTH FROM THE OXUS TO THE KHYBER PASS. IRAN, THE ERSTWHILE REGIONAL INFLUENTIAL WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO HAVE BOLSTERED PAKISTAN'S SECURITY AS WELL EAS, ITSELF, BEEN DESTABILISED AND IS IN THE THROES OF A REVOLUTION THE

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Correspondence: 1-12, Pakistan: Presidentia

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CONSEQUENCES OF WHICH ARE INCALCULABLE. OUR OTHER NEIGHBOUR INDIA IS ALSO FACING POLITICAL TURMOIL AND PROSPECTS OF PROLONGED POLITICAL INSTABILITY WHICH CANNOT BUT CAUSE US CONCERN. WOULD UNDERSTAND, MR. PRESIDENT, OUR DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT THAT IN SUCH A SITUATION WHICH, IN OUR ESTIMATIN, SHOULD ALSO BE A MATTER OF PROFOUND CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES, OUR LINES OF COMMUNICATION ASTAND DISRUPTED FOR REASONS BEYOND OUR CONTROL. OUR MODEST NUCLEAR RESEARCH PROGRAMME WHICH IS GEARED ENTIRELY TO PEACEFUL PURPOSES, BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD AND MISINTERPRETED BY YOUR ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS BY THE CONGRESS AND THE U.S. MEDIA, AS A SINISTER ATTEMPT TO MANUFACTURE A NUCLEAR WEAPON, WHICH, TO AGGRAVATE OUR PROBLEM FURTHER, HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A "MUSLIM ATOM BOMB" I AM REFERRING TO THE CBS BROADCAST BY MR. WALTER CRONKITE ON JUNE 11 AND 12, WHICH PRESENTED A HIGHLY DISTORTED AND TENDENTIOUS PICTURE OF OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD, GIVING AN UNMISTAKABLE IMPRESSION THAT THE WESTERN COUNTRIES AND THE UNITED STATES WERE CONDUCTING AN ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN TO MISREPRESENT THE INTENT AND PURPOSE OF OUR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR PROGRAMME. THE SUGGESTION IN THE CBS BROADCAST THAT INDIA OR ISRAEL OR PERHAPS EVEN THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO DESTROY PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR FACILITIES AMOUNTED TO AN INCITE-MENT TO THESE COUNTRIES TO COMMIT AGGRESSION AGAINST PAKISTAN. A U.S. OFFICIAL WAS QUOTED BY THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, PUBLISHED IN NEW DELHI, AS SAYING, " IF YOU CA TAKE OUT EAST PAKITAN IN FOURTEEN DAYS, THERE IS NO REASON WHY YOU CANNOT TAKE OUT THE NUCLEAR PLANT IN FOURTEEN MINUTES.

ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE RECENT PAST, I HAVE HAD OCCASION TO CONVEY TO VISITING U.S. DIGNITARIES AS WELL AS TO YOUR AMBASSADOR OUR CONCERN AT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS REACTED TO OUR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR PROGRAMME AND THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES IT COULD HAVE NOT ONLY FOR PAKISTAN'S SECURITY BUT ALSO FOR THE FUTURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIESS. DURING MY MOST RECENT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH AMBASSADOR HUMMEL ON THIS SUBJECT ON JULY 29, A MESSAGE SUGGESTING THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME WRITTEN ASSURANCE REGARDING OUR COMMITMENT TO NUCLEAR PROGRAMME ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO PEACEFUL PURPOSES. I HAVE NO HESITATION WHATSOEVER, MR. PRESIDENT, IN CONVEYING TO YOU MY FIRM ASSURANCE THAT PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME IS ENTIRELY PEACEFUL IN NATURE AND THAT PAKISTAN HAS NO INTENTION OF ACQUIRING OR MANUFACTURING NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

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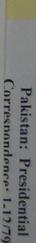
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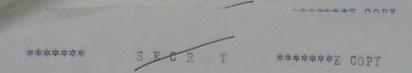
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Correspondence: 1-12/79 Pakistan: Presidential

THAL PAPERS-STAFF





SUCH AN ASSURANCE IS FULLY IN ACCORD WITH
PAKISTAN'S UNREMITTING EFFORTS IN THE UNITED NATIONAS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS FOR NUCLEAR GUARANTEES TO
NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
A SOUTH ASIAN NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE. LET ME FURTHER
ASSURE YOU OF PAKISTAN'S READINESS AT ALL TIMES TO CONTINUE
TO COOPERATE WITH THE UNITED STATED IN THE UNITED NATIONS
AS WELL AS BILATERALLY, IN EXPLORING HOW BEST WE MIGHT
MAKE THIS REGION SAFE FROM THE TEREAT OF PROLIFERATION
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
IN CONCLUSION, MAY I SAY THAT THE SIGNING OF
THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET
UNION ON LIMITING STRATEGIC WEAPONS IS AN ACHIEVEMENT
OF HISTORIC PROPORTIONS. WE SEE IN THIS DEVELOPMENT A
REFLECTION OF OUR OWN DEEP YEARNINGS FOR THE DELIVERANCE
OF MANKIND FROM THE CATASTROPHE OF NUCLEAR WAR AND THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORLD ORDER BASED ON GENERAL
DISARMAMENT, PEACE AND JUSTICE. THE CONCLUSION OF THE
AGREEMENT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR
PATIENT AND DEDICATED PURSUIT OF THIS NOBLE OBJECTIVE.
WITH PROFOUND REGARDS,
YOURS SINCERELY,
GENERAL (M.ZIA-UL-HAQ)
HUMMEL