DECEPTIONED

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PERP, MNUC, TECH, MILI, PK, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH GO PUBLIC (PARTLY) ON REPROCESSING ISSUE WITH PAKISTAN

REF: ISLAMABAD 7497

1. THE FRENCH HAVE PUBLICLY SURFACED SOME OF THEIR DIFFICULTIES WITH PAKISTAN OVER THE REPROCESSING PLANT. MFA SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED AUGUST 2 THAT DURING HIS JULY VISIT TO ISLAMABAD JACOMET HAD MADE SOME PROPOSALS TO PAKISTAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A WEAPONS-PROOF REPROCESSING PLANT. THE SPOKESMAN SAID QUOTE AT THE END OF 1976 THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN NUCLEAR POLICY TOOK DECISIONS ACCORDING TO WHICH FRANCE IS PURSUING A FIRM POLICY OF NON-PROLIFERATION. THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT HAS STATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT IT IS NOT SEEKING TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS THEREFORE MADE PROPOSALS TO THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT IT TO HAVE AT ITS DISPOSAL PROLIFERATION-PROOF INSTALLATIONS MEETING ITS ENERGY NEEDS ON SATISFACTORY TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC TERMS. END QUOTE
2. JACOMET INFORMS US THAT THE FRENCH FELT THE NEED TO SURFACE THIS DEFENSE OF THEIR POSITION BECAUSE OF A REUTERS REPORT FROM ISLAMABAD DATED AUGUST 1 SAYING JACOMET WAS TRYING TO PERSUADE THE PAKISTANIS TO MODIFY THE AGREEMENT. JACOMET TELLS US THAT AS YET THERE HAS BEEN NO PAKISTANI REACTION TO THE MFA STATEMENT; FRENCH PRESS HAS NOT PLAYED IT UP EITHER.
HARTMAN