

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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January 22, 1979

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TO : P - Mr. Newsom

FROM : S/MS - Marshall Shulman *MS*
S/P - Paul H. Kreisberg *PK*
EUR - Robert L. Barry *RB*

SUBJECT: The Mini-PRC on Pakistani Nuclear Intentions, January 22

? All of us have serious reservations about the recommendation included in the Discussion Paper for the NSC and in the OES/NEA memorandum to you for the meeting January 20, that we propose to Dobrynin the desirability of a Russian demarche to Pakistan.

Precisely because our interests lie in avoiding the deterioration in US-Pakistani relations which their continued nuclear efforts will inevitably produce, it is a risky proposition to attempt to unleash the Soviets. The Pakistanis already feel under pressure from Moscow; we are under public scrutiny in our efforts to constrain Soviet influence in that area of the world; under these circumstances, do we want to feed and encourage Soviet pressure on Pakistan? We are giving first priority to urging the Chinese to lean on Islamabad; what would Chinese reactions be to our linking their efforts to persuade the Pakistanis in tandem with Soviet efforts? Would we not risk "losing" the Chinese on this -- or arousing their suspicion of our motives -- if we called on the Russians for help?

Finally, we should ask ourselves if a US approach to the Soviets is necessary to affect their attitude on Pakistani nuclear intentions. We suggest it is not and that the

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Soviets are capable of pursuing their own interests, whether in response to their own intelligence about Pakistani intentions or Pakistani request for assistance -- without prompting from us.

In short, a Soviet demarche stimulated by us would hurt our interests, not help them, and should not be pursued at this time beyond the general informational, low-key expression of concern about the Pakistan program we have already apparently expressed to the Soviets.

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cc: T - Ms. Benson
OES - Mr. Pickering
NEA - Mr. Saunders

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