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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS:PFOR, PK SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING ON ARMS QUESTION

TEXT OF STATEMENT BY WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN FOLLOWING PRESI-DENT'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO BEING CARRIED ON WIRELESS FILE. IN ADDITION, SPOKESMAN REPLIED TO QUES-TION REGARDING ARMS EMBARGO USING SUBSTANCE OF PREPARED GUIDANCE AS FOLLOWS (VERBATIM TEXT NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAIL-ABLE):

"THE PRESIDENT AGREED TO GIVE THE MATTER ACTIVE CONSIDERA-TION. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER SAID THE OTHER DAY THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY FINAL DECISION WHILE THE PRIME MINISTER IS HERE. BUT HE ALSO NOTED THE PECULIAR SITUA-TION PAKISTAN FINDS ITSELF IN--AS AN ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES SUBJECT TO AN AMERICAN ARMS EMBARGO. I DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF THE TALKS BETWEEN THE PRESI-UNCLASSIFIED

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DENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER. WHATEVER IS DECIDED, THOUGH, YOU SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THE THREE GENERAL PRINCIPLES SET FORTH BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE DURING HIS TRIP LAST OCTOBER TO THE SUBCONTINENT: (1) THE U.S. WILL NOT FUEL AN ARMS RACE IN SOUTH ASIA; (2) WE DO NOT INTEND TO TAKE ANY MEASURES TO ALTER THE STRATEGIC BALANCE IN THAT AREA;

(3) WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THE PROCESS OF RECONCI-LIATION IN SOUTH ASIA. KISSINGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED