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ACTION NEA-11

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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P R 121105Z AUG 79
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4329
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

ISLAMABAD 9161

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: GDS 12 AUG 1985 (HAGERTY, H.G.) OR-P
TAGS: PINT, PK, MNUC
SUBJ: (U) REPORTED DEAL WITH THE US TO SAVE BHUTTO AND STOP
NUCLEAR PROGRAM

1. (U) UNDER BANNER HEADLINE "BENZAIR'S DEAL WITH AMERICA,"
GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES 11 AUGUST CARRIED
PPI STORY ALLEGING THAT BENAZIR BHUTTO, DAUGHTER OF THE LATE
PRIME MINISTER, HAD "STRUCK A DEAL WITH AMERICAN FOR SUPPORT
(IN HER FATHER'S CAMPAIGN FOR CLEMENCY) IN RETURN FOR A
PLEDGE TO SCUTTLE PAKISTAN'S DRIVE FOR NUCLEAR CAPABILITY."

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2. (U) "THE STRATEGY ADOPTED BY MISS BENAZIR," THE STORY
RELATES, " WAS TO FIRST CONVINCING THE AMERICANS AND THE WORLD
AT LARGE THAT PAKISTAN WAS ON THE VERGE OF PRODUCING
A NUCLEAR BOMB, AND AFTER CREATING THIS ALARM, TO USE
THIS AS A TRUMP CARD TO WIN THE SUPPORT OF THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT FOR BHUTTO" IN HIS WORLD-WIDE APPEAL FOR
CLEMENCY. AS EVIDENCE OF THIS PLOT, THE ARTICLE
CITES A LETTER THAT BENAZIR ALLEGEDLY WROTE HER BROTHER
MIRTAZA IN LONDON AFTER THE LAHORE HIGH COURT HAD

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
IM/PS/CR/IR/PS
Date: 10/24/97
FOIA Exemptions
PA Exemptions
TS authority to
() CLASSIFY as () S or () C Sec.
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IN PART
BO Citations
DECLASSIFY
EXCISE
DENY
RELEASE

FOUND THEIR FATHER GUILTY AS CHARGED AND SENTENCED HIM TO DEATH.

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3. (U) ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT USG WAS A TOUGH NUT TO CRACK WITH THIS DEAL, SINCE PRIMIN BHUTTO HAD "OFFENDED" IT ALMOST IRRETRIEVABLY BY ACCUSING IT OF HATCHING A DIABOLICAL CONSPIRACY..FOR HIS OVERTHROW..IT COULD BE WON ONLY IF SOMETHING CONCRETE WERE OFFERED.." A BHUTTO FAMILY WILLINGNESS TO GIVE UP THE CONTROVERSIAL REPROCESSING PLANT CONTRACT WITH THE FRENCH WAS THE ALLEGED QUID PRO QUO.

4. (U) THE PLAN DID NOT SAVE BHUTTO'S LIFE BUT THE ARTICLE ALLEGES IT "CERTAINLY ORCHESTRATED WESTERN PROPAGANDA AGAINST PAKISTAN ON THE NUCLEAR ISSUUM". THE AUTHORS ADDUCE, AS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE, THE APPEALS THE US MADE FOR BHUTTO'S LIFE AND THE BHUTTOS' "SEALED-LIP CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE ON THE MOUNTING AMERICAN PRESSURE AGAINST PAKISTAN'S SEARCH FOR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY."

5. (U) AT CONCLUSION, ARTICLE NOTES AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMOZA FAMILY IN NICARAGUA AS ILLUSTRATION OF

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AMERICAN WILLINGNESS TO CONCLUDE A DEAL WITH AN INFLUENTIAL FAMILY.

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6. (U) EMBASSY HAS PREPARED AND CIRCULATED TO CONSTITUENT POSTS FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE ON AN IF ASKED BASIS: QUOTE WE ARE UNABLE TO COMMENT ON EXISTENCE OF SUCH A LETTER BETWEEN BENAZIR BHUTTO AND HER BROTHER AS DESCRIBED IN PAKISTAN TIMES 11 AUG. WHAT WE CAN SAY, HOWEVER, IS THAT WE KNOW OF NO APPROACH HAVING BEEN MADE TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED IN THE PAKISTAN TIMES STORY, AND WE CAN SAY CERTAINLY THAT NO SUCH ARRANGEMENT OR UNDERSTANDING WAS EVER REACHED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND ANY MEMBER OF THE BHUTTO FAMILY. UNQUOTE

7. (C) COMMENT: THE ARTICLE IS A BLATANT AND HEAVY-HANDED SLAM MAINLY AT THE BHUTTOS AND SECONDARILY AT THE US; IT IS AN INGENIOUS (IF TRANSPARENT) ATTEMPT, WE ASSUME, BY THE PAKISTAN MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION (MLA) TO TAR BENAZIR (AND HER MOTHER, PPP CHAIRMAN NUSRAT BHUTTO WHO COMES OUT OF MOURNING ON THE 14TH) WITH THE BRUSH OF THE NUCLEAR IMPASSE WITH THE UNITED STATES THIS TAKES SOME DOING, AND THE GAPS IN THE CHRONOLOGY AND THE LOGIC OF THE PIECE SERVE CONSIDERABLY TO DIMINISH ITS EFFECT. WE HAVE HAD NOT ONE PRESS QUERY ON THE PIECE SINCE ITS APPEARANCE, AND EVEN THE RIGHT WING URDU DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT OFFERS TODAY THAT IT

WILL AWAIT BENAZIR'S EXPLANATION BEFORE COMMENTING.

8. STILL, THE PIECE IS REMINISCENT OF THE HEAVY-HANDED SMEAR CAMPAIGN AGAINST BHUTTO HIMSELF WHILE THE SUPREME COURT WAS CONSIDERING HIS APPEAL FROM THE LAHORE HIGH COURT VERDICT. IT IS BUT ONE SIGN IN MANY THAT THE MLA IS PREPARED TO COME ON HEAVY AGAINST THE PPP -- AND ESPECIALLY AGAINST THE BHUTTO WOMEN/FAMILY IN THE WEEKS AHEAD AS ELECTIONS WHICH COULD RETURN TO THE

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PPP TO POWER DRAW CLOSER.
HUMMEL

NNN

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

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