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Pakistan: Nuclear Decision Makers— Unanimous Opinion [REDACTED]

A Research Paper

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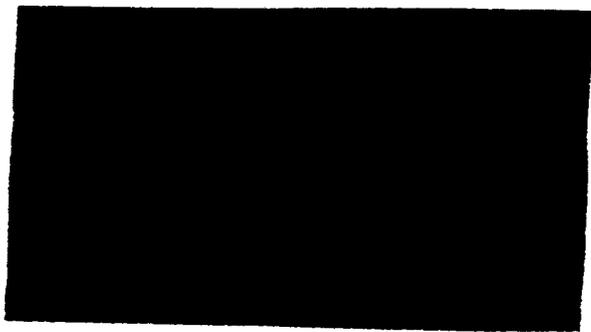
Directorate of
Intelligence



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Exemptions: (b)(1), (b)(3)

Pakistani Nuclear Organizations

The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission

The PAEC, established in 1955, oversees the civilian nuclear program, the clandestine plutonium reprocessing facilities at the New Labs complex located at the Pakistan Institute of Technology, and various weapons development units. According to our analysis of PAEC personnel lists, 20 times as many scientists and technicians work for the PAEC now as worked there when Munir Khan was appointed its chairman in 1972. Under his leadership the PAEC has expanded the nuclear program to develop the facilities needed for fuel fabrication and reprocessing as well as to continue development of civilian applications.

The New Labs reprocessing facility has been in development since 1974. The facility contains sections for fuel handling and reprocessing, waste treatment, and plutonium metallurgy. Although New Labs is nearly complete, we believe at least five years would be required to recover enough plutonium for one nuclear device.

The Directorate of Technical Development (DTD) is responsible for the PAEC weapons program.

Bhutto established the DTD in 1974, after he vowed to provide Pakistan with a nuclear deterrent to Indian hegemony. The DTD has working space at the Wah Arsenal, outside Islamabad. (S NF NC OC)

Khan Research Laboratories (KRL)

Publicly renamed in January 1984 to honor its director, A. Q. Khan, this uranium enrichment facility at Kahuta had been known since its establishment in 1976 as the Engineering Research Laboratories. The ERL represented Pakistan's first concrete step in the development of the gas centrifuge method of uranium enrichment. Pakistan's scientists had investigated the possibilities of uranium enrichment by this method as early as 1968, but efforts did not begin in earnest until A. Q. returned to the country in 1975. Through his extensive network of European contacts, he began to covertly procure the components that would ultimately enable the then clandestine facility to manufacture highly enriched uranium. Although procurement of components and equipment to complete the plant has become more difficult since the Western press publicized the facility's existence in 1979, Pakistan has made progress in gas centrifuge technology and probably has succeeded in producing small amounts of enriched uranium.

KRL is an autonomous facility outside the purview of the PAEC.

In addition to A. Q., the board includes Munir Khan, Ishaq Khan, an additional member from the PAEC, and KRL's financial director.

When and if Pakistan completes work at KRL and manages to sustain operation, the plant will be able to produce highly enriched uranium. We believe KRL will not be able to produce enough material for a nuclear device until late 1985 at the earliest and probably not until 1987 or 1988.

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