

[REDACTED]

June 1, 1988

PAKISTAN: New Reactor Under Construction

[REDACTED] a nuclear research reactor is under construction at the Pakistani Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology's New Labs Complex near Rawalpindi. [REDACTED] officials at the New Labs and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission were collaborating in late 1987 in making orders and inquiries for equipment for the reactor building. [REDACTED] Pakistan was purchasing fuel fabrication equipment for the reactor in 1987. When complete, the reactor could be used to irradiate uranium fuel to produce plutonium. [REDACTED] the reactor will be based on the Canadian NRX design. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A plutonium-producing research reactor will significantly expand the options available to Pakistan's nuclear weapons program. Pakistan already has a uranium-enrichment plant capable of producing weapons-grade material; a source of plutonium will provide Pakistan with opportunities for designing smaller nuclear weapons. The reactor could become operational within five years. [REDACTED]

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