

PAKISTAN-IRAN: Cutback in Military Ties

[REDACTED] President Zia ordered the Foreign and Defense Ministries to delay—but not to reject—Iran's requests for more military assistance despite objections from the Finance Minister, who advocates closer ties with Iran. Zia believes Pakistan's long-term interests are better served by not irritating the Arab states backing Iraq.

[REDACTED]

Comment: Pakistan wants to maintain good relations with Iran, but not at the expense of its ties with other Persian Gulf states. Zia's decision to stall on Iranian arms requests potentially jeopardizes Islamabad's strong trade relations with Tehran. Iran is Pakistan's largest export market, and there is no obvious alternative for many of its agricultural and manufactured products.

[REDACTED]