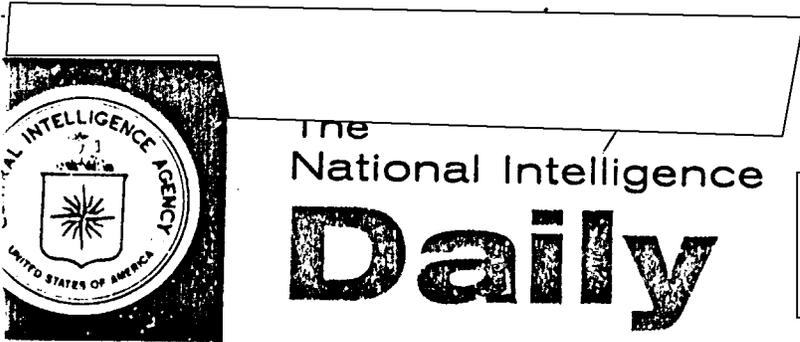


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## Indian Nuclear Test Will Spur Pakistani Effort

India's nuclear test will probably spur a Pakistani effort to develop nuclear weapons, but Islamabad will not have the capability to explode a nuclear device for several years.

Comments by the head of Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission early this week reflected Islamabad's interest in nuclear weapons. The official stated that the Indian test had

"opened the floodgate for nuclear weapons" and warned that unless decisive action is taken, "the membership of the nuclear club will not stop at six." Pakistan has signed but not ratified the Limited Test Ban Treaty and has refused to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Pakistanis are just beginning a nuclear power program. They have only a 125-megawatt electric reactor acquired from Canada that began operating in December 1972. This reactor is under safeguards that call for periodic inspections by UN teams.

Islamabad does have fairly elaborate plans to expand this nuclear power program and become self-sufficient in nuclear fuels. This expansion would give Islamabad the option of eventually going into a nuclear weapons program.

Pakistan's nuclear program depends heavily on foreign technical and financial assistance. It is building, with Canadian assistance, a fuel element fabrication facility that will be completed in 1975. The Pakistanis are negotiating with the French for the construction of a fuel processing plant that will probably take about two years to build. These facilities would enable Pakistan to manufacture plutonium.

Bids for Pakistan's second nuclear power station, a 600-megawatt reactor, are to be opened by December. Plans call for construction of additional power plants. A contract for a heavy water plant has been won by a Belgian firm; it is to be completed by 1980.

If Pakistan decides to undertake a nuclear weapons program, it will take at least two or three years to construct the necessary fuel reprocessing facility. Completion of studies of high explosives development and nuclear weapons design probably would take even longer without foreign assistance. Pakistan's plants could turn out enough plutonium to fabricate 10 to 20 nuclear devices a year.

Pakistan is actively exploring for uranium and has located a number of low-grade deposits. It may eventually be in a position to produce enough uranium for its nuclear program. [Redacted]

[Redacted]