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Bhutto Seeks Nuclear Policy Assurances

Pakistan Prime Minister Bhutto, well launched on an extensive diplomatic effort to counter the Indian nuclear explosion, has sent similarly worded letters soliciting support from President Nixon and other major world leaders.

Asserting that Pakistan is exposed to "a kind of nuclear threat or blackmail unparalleled elsewhere," Bhutto argues that, if the world community fails to provide Pakistan and other countries with political insurance against nuclear blackmail, these countries will feel constrained to embark on nuclear programs of their own.

In Bhutto's view, assurances extended by the UN Security Council to states without nuclear weapons are not enough. He intends to seek more in messages to Secretary General Waldheim and all permanent members of the council.

In his letter to Peking, Bhutto specifically asks China for bilateral cooperation in the nuclear field. He notes that Peking has in the past turned down requests with the argument that such cooperation might provoke Moscow to give New Delhi a nuclear capability. Since that argument no longer applies, Bhutto says, he will send a high-level diplomatic official to Peking to take up the matter once again.

China's reaction to the Indian test suggests that Peking's response will be far short of what Pakistan wants.



Peking plainly wishes to avoid a nuclear entanglement with Pakistan that would further damage prospects for a rapprochement with India. Peking is likely to steer clear of any multilateral guarantees out of distrust of "super power" nuclear monopolies.

As part of its diplomatic campaign, Pakistan has presented an aide memoire to most of the non-nuclear nations of the world, calling on them to press the permanent members of the Security Council to extend a nuclear umbrella over "threatened" states. Islamabad warns that, unless firm steps are taken others will find themselves in the same position Pakistan is in, and the peace of the world will be in jeopardy.

