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-- INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION CABLE

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs
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[REDACTED] 4 August 1966

SUBJECT: Views of Indian Military Officials on Atomic Energy Developments

1. The Indian Ministry of Defense Committee appointed to make recommendations on India's policy on atomic energy developments has completed an interim report which represents the military point of view. The report carries the government of India classification of top secret.

2. The following points were made in the report:

a. From preliminary studies it appears that even if India produced a bomb, it had almost no possibility of producing or purchasing a modern delivery system in the near future. At best, India could only hope to purchase obsolete bombers with a fairly limited range.

b. Tactical atomic equipment would be most valuable for India's defense but it is outside the range of India's present technical capabilities to produce equipment such as compact warheads.

c. The scientific community had indicated to the committee that a nuclear device could be exploded within twelve to fourteen months if a crash program were to be ordered.

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