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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 CI-06

SCI-06 AEC-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAF-00 NRC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NSF-04 ACDA-19 IO-12 GAC-01

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3739
AMCONSUL MADRAS
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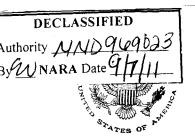
C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 0705 RQ.O.: 11652 GDS TAGS: TGENKQ IN SUBJECT: INDIA'S NUCLEAR POSITION

- 1. SUMMARY: AEC SCIREP POINTS OUT INDICATIONS GOT COULD VERY WELL BE WORKING ON NUCLEAR DEVICE: TO DEMONSTRATE PEACEFUL! APPLICATIONS IN NOT WOO DISTANT FUTURE AND INDICATION ALSO THAT GOT IS LAYING GROUNDWORK TO MARKET LARGELY INDIGENOUS POWER REACTORS.
- 2. AEC REP BOMBAY DR. PINAJIAN (SINCE MID NOVEMBER 1972)
 HAS AT MY REQUEST GIVEN ME HIS INFORMAL AND PERSONAL! EVALUATION
 OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR PRSITION BASED ON SUBJECTIVE OBSERVATIONS
 AT VARIOUS LEVELS IN INDIA, BROAD EXTRAPOLATIONS BASED ON
 TECHNICAL PAPERS PRESENTED AT INDIAN SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS
 AS WELL AS IMPRESSION GATHERED FROM PUBLIC AND PERSONAL
 COMMENTS MADE BY MEMBER ATOMIC ENERGY COMMMUNITY. REQUEST
 HIS COMMENTS, WHICH PERSONAL TO ME, REIGLOSELY HELD.
- 3. IT IS OPINION AL THAT INDIA'S DEPT OF ATOMIC ENERGY IS LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR SALE OF LARGELY INGENOUS ATOMIC

REACTORS (200 MWE) AND B) THAT GOT MAY WELL HAVE DECIDED TO

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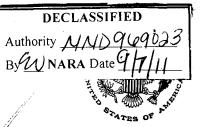
DEMONSTRATE ITS

NUCLEAR CAPABILITY BY EXPLOITING PEACEFUL APPLICATION M A NUCLEAR DEVICE. IN HIS JUDGEMENT THIS WOULD BE FULLY WITHIN CAPABILITIES OF GOI TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND INDICATIONS AVAILABLE IT COULD SUGGEST THAT GO! MAY BE CURRENTLY WORKING TO THIS END.

A. DESPITE HIS EXCELLENT CREDENTIALS AND CONTACTS HERE DATING FROM DAK RIDGE, HIS PROPOSALS TO CARRY ON EXPERIMENTAL WORK AT BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE (BARC) AT TROMBAY AND TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDEMENTAL RESEARCH (TIFR) HAVE BEEN REBUFFED BY GOI DIRECTORS (DR RAMANNA AT TROMBAY AND PROF MENON AT TIFR.) THIS DESPITE FACT THAT IN AGREEMENT SIGNED BY DR. SARABHAT, THEN CHAIRMAN AEC). AND USAEC COMMISSIONER RAMEY. DR PINAJIAN WAS BEING MADE AVAILABLE AS AN EXPERT IN AREA OF PRODUCTION OF HIGH PURITY RADIONUCLIDES. PRESENT AEC CHAIRMAN SETHNA INITIALLY SUNGESTED THAT PINAJIAN GO TO WORK AT BARC IMMEDIATELY. RAMANNA, HOWEVER AFTER AVOIDING PINAJIAN UNTIL SETHNA INTERVENED AND PERSONALLY REQUESTED APPOINTMENT FINALLY TOLD HIM THAT IT WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL FOR HIM TO WORK WITH ISOTOPES DIVISION SINCE IT WOULD "REQUIRE PERMISSION FROM THE CENTRE". RAMANNA ENDED BY SUGGESTING PINAJIAN SHOULD REALLY WORK AT TIFR. PINAJIAN HAS BEEN TRYING TO SEE MENON WHO HEAD TIFR SINCE ARRIVAL ON BOMBAY AND WITHOUT SUCCESS. MOREOVER PROF THOSAR OF MENON'S STAFF REQUESTED LAST NOVEMBER THAT HE BE GIVEN "PERMISSION TO INITIATE A PROGRAM OF INVESTIGATION WITH DR. PINAJIAN, A RECOGNIZED EXPERT IN CERTAIN AREAS OF INTERNAL CONVERSION SPECTROSCOPY". MONTHS HAVE PASSED AND NEITHER THOSAR NOR PINAJIAN HAS HEARD ANYTHING FURTHER ON THIS DESPITE PRODDING. CONSIDER FOREGOING SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE BARE AND TIFR WOULD BE PRINCIPAL ORGANIZATION INVOLVED IN ANYP MOVE TOWARD DEVELOPMENT OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE. ADDITIONALLY PINAUIAN HAS HAD INCREASING DIFFICULTY IN SFEING SETHNA (HAS NOT SEEN SINCE FEB ALTHOUGH HAS REQUESTED APPOINTMENT ON NUMBER DF OCCASIONS .)

B. DESPITE CHAIRMAN SETHNA'S STATEMENT THAT TROMBAY "WIDE OPEN AND WE HAVE NO SECRETS" PINAJIAN CONTACTS: WITH PERSONNEL WORKING THERE (AND HE HAS A NUMBER OF

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EXCELLENT CONTACTS WHO VALUE HIS ADVICED DO NOT BEAR THIS OUT. HIS CONTACTS SUGGEST THAT OUTSIDERS WORKING AT TROMBAY ARE NOT FREE TO ROAM AROUND. IN FACT FRIENDLY SOURCES ARE UNABLE TO TELL HIM WHO IS WORKING ON A PARTICULAR PROJECT AND WHAT IS BEING DONE.

C. PINAJIAN SATISFIED FROM ALL INDICATIONS AVAILABLE TO HIM INDIANS: ARE DOING EXTENSIVE WORK: IN FIELD OF PLUTONIUM. HE RECOGNIZES OF COURSE STRONG BASE FOR BLUTONIUM WORK IS ALSO NECESSARY FOR UTILIZATION OF PLUTONIUM IN DAE BREEDER REACTOR PROGRAM.

D. DAE HAS PLUTONIOM PROCESSING PLANT AT TROMBAY ANOTHER PLANT AT TARAPUR (SAFEGUARDS APPLY HERE TO REACTORS ONLY) AND ADDITIONAL PLANTS AT MADRAS. THE CIRCUS REACTORS AT TROMBAY HAVE BEEN OPERATING SEVERAL YEARS WITH NO CONTROL OVER DISPOTION PLUTONIUM PRODUCTION FROM REACTOR. HZ[HOTES, AS WELL, TARAPUR SENDING USED US FUEL ELEMENTS TO US RATHER THAN TREAT TARAPUR TROMBAY OR HYFURABAD WHICH EDULD SUGGEST RELUCTANCE TO SEE SAFEGUARDS APPLIED.

THIS ALSO SUGGESTED TO PINAJIAN BYJP DR AMWDKONDAL PROJECT DIRECTOR NUELEAR FUEL COMPLEX HYDERABAD.

5. COMMENT: FORGOING SUBJECTIVE AND IMPRESSIONISTIC AND MUST BE TREATED AS SUCH. I CAN VERIFY THAT KEY MEN IN INDIA'S ATOMIC ENERGY HIERARCHY ARE APPARENTLY RELUCTANT TO ALLOW PINAJIAN TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ANY ACCESS TO THESE INSTITUTIONS. IN MY VIEW THEIR RELUCTANCE DERIVES FROM THEIR CONCERN THAT PINAJIAN KNOW-LEDGEABLE AND COULD FIND OUT MORE THAN THEY MIGHT LIKE THAT HE SHOULD. THEY PROBABLY FEAR THAT WE MAY BE USING HIM OBSERVE THEIR ACTIVITIES IN NUCLEAR FIELD.

6. AS AURA OF INDO-PAK VICTORY AND 1970/72 ELECTORAL! SUCCESSES DIM AND AS PUBLIC DISENCHANTMENT WITH PMEAND GOT MOUNT REFLECTING INCREASED ECONOMIC DISTRESS IT OCCUPS TO US IN BOMBAY THAT IN ADDITION USUAL SCAPEGNATS, "DEMONSTRATION" OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE:

FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE

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COULD GIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL SHOT IN ARM TO SAGGING PM AND CONGRESS IMAGE AS WELL SUPPORT INDIA'S DESIRE ATTAIN GREATER RECOGNITION MAJOR POWER STATUS.

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