Subject: India's Nuclear Explosion; Swaran Singh Statement

1. Foreign Minister Swaran Singh issued a statement

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 ACDA-19 AF-10

ARA-16 CIAE-00 DOD-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NASA-04

NSAE-00 NSC-07 OIC-04 SP-03 PA-04 PRS-01 RSC-01

SCI-06 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /213 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1602
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USUN NEW YORK 1642
USMISSION GENEVA
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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VIENNA FOR IAEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, PFOR, IN
SUBJECT: INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION; SWARAN SINGH STATEMENT

1. FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH ISSUED A STATEMENT

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MAY 21 SAYING THE INDIAN EXPLOSION "IS AN IMPORTANT LANDMARK IN ONE
DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL AND ECONOMIC USES. WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS’. IN PERFORMING THIS SCIENTIFIC TEST, SINGH SAID, “INDIA HAS NOT VIOLATED ANY OF HER INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. WE ARE HEARTENED BY THE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED IN THIS ENDEAVOR FROM COUNTRIES OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD. IT IS SINGULARLY UNFORTUNATE THAT THE PEACEFUL NATURE OF THIS NUCLEAR EXPLOSION OF OURS SHOULD BE MISCONSTRUED AND MISREAD IN PAKISTAN. WE VALUE OUR COMMITMENT UNDER THE SIMLA AGREEMENT TO SETTLE ALL OUR DIFFERENCES WITH PAKISTAN BY PEACEFUL AND BILATERAL MEANS. MOREOVER, BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE RESOLVED THAT THE PAST POLICIES OF CONFRONTATION AND CONFLICT ARE BANISHED FOREVER.” SINGH HOPEd MISCONCEPTION IN PAKISTAN ABOUT THE TEST WOULD BE REMOVED AFTER COOL REFLECTION, AND AFFIRMED THAT INDIA HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED COOPERATION AMONG COUNTRIES OF THE REGION OF THE BASIS OF SOVEREIGN EQUALITY. “PAKISTAN’S ALLEGATIONS OF HEGEMONISTIC DESIGNS HAVE NO BASIS AT ALL, AND ARE, TO SAY THE LEAST, UNCHARITABLE.”

2. THE PRESS REPORTED SINGH’S STATEMENT AS PROMPTED BY COMMENTS BY BHUTTO AND AZIZ AHMED. BACKGROUNDERS APPARENTLY CONTRASTED ISLAMABAD’S REACTION TO THE “UNDERSTANDING” SHOWN BY NEPAL AND BANGLADESH. ACCORDING TO THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN SPECIAL STEPS TO EXPLAIN ITS POSITION TO ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS (BANGLADESH, NEPAL, SRI LANKA, AND AFGHANISTAN), TO FRIENDLY NATIONS IN EST ASIA (IRAN, IRAQ, AND EGYPT), AND ALGERIA, TANZANIA, CANADA AND WEST GERMANY. THE PAPER SAID MRS. GANDHI MAY WRITE TO THE HEADS OF NEIGHBORING GOVERNMENTS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. MOYNIHAN

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