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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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CDP  
27/3India/Pakistan Nuclear

The briefing for Moscow contains a suggestion, which has already been made to the Russians at official level, that there should be some fresh thinking about the nuclear situation in the Indian sub-continent; in particular that the Russians and Americans, and possibly ourselves, should get together to plan some linked action in Islamabad and New Delhi in order to reduce tension between the two countries. We raised this at official level with the Americans last week and they have come back to us saying that they are dubious about any concerted USSR/USA/UK approach to India and Pakistan since the Russians have up to now shown little interest in pressing India, and may try to exploit any initiative to weaken US/Pakistan relations.

Should this subject arise in Moscow, the Foreign Secretary believes it still worth making the point that joint action is one possibility, but it would have to include fresh thinking on the part of the Russians who would have to use their own leverage on the Indians as part of the package. If the Russians showed any sign of movement on this the Foreign Secretary would then have the opportunity to discuss the matter further with Mr Shultz the week after his return from Moscow. But we need to be cautious about how far we go with the Russians at this stage.

Yours own

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Private Secretary

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