## Pakistan’s Nuclear Programme

*“Pakistan’s Nuclear Programme started in mid-1950s , aimed at acquiring scientific knowledge and technology for peaceful uses … also envisaged the construction of power plants in due course to meet the energy needs of its developing economy”*

(Abdul Sattar ; Pakistan’s Foreign Policy)

 The Pakistan atomic energy commission obtained small 5 megawatt research reactor from the United States in 1962 for Pakistan Institute of nuclear science and technology(PINSTECH) ,  near Islamabad coma under in agreement that provided for inspection and controls by the international atomic energy agency. effusus share Canada agreed to extend cooperation to Pakistan for the construction of a 120 megawatt nuclear power plant. completed in 9672 this plant, too, was placed under the safeguards of international atomic energy agency.

On the contrary India was secretly developing nuclear weapons while emphasising peaceful uses in public statements it was establishing the entire nuclear fuel cycle facilities, including production of palm tree Atrium that would give India the weapons options facts  facts on mistakenly pointed out to the conclusion that Indian leaders sought to win for their country all the prestige status and economic benefits associated with being a nuclear power including the options of building the bomb if necessary.

Taking cognizance of the emerging threat to Pakistan’s security, and the potential for a blackmail in an asymmetrical nuclear situation, Foreign Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto said in 1965 *‘if India makes an atomic bomb we will also do so even if we have to eat grass… an atom bomb can only be answered by an atom bomb’ .*Despite the clear threats emerging from India in the wake of its aim to become a nuclear power, Pakistan decided to give peace a chance invested its hopes in the non-proliferation Treaty and actively participated in efforts at the United Nations to promote its early efforts of Nuclear Non Proliferation.

## Changing Geo-political Situation and Indian Hegemony

The 1971 debacle which led to Pakistan losing its Eastern territory and the creation of Bangladesh compelled it to undertake the proverbial ‘painful reappraisal of its policy of nuclear abstinence’. Pakistan's conventional defence capacity had proven inadequate to safeguard its territorial integrity as East Pakistan was attacked by Indian military which intervened to create Bangladesh.

 **India's exploitation of Pakistan's internal political troubles, encouragement and assistance to separatism in East Pakistan, violation of the principle of non interference in internal affairs, aggression and military intervention, illustrated India's nefarious designs to undermine the sovereignty of Pakistan. Furthermore, the irremedial imbalance of power coupled with the reluctance of allies to come to Pakistan's rescue and the powerlessness of the United Nations left Pakistan with no choice but to devise its own means to ensure its security and survival.**

## Conclusion

Pakistan developing a nuclear deterrent was a necessary and understandable response to rectify the qualitative force imbalance created by India’s 1974 nuclear test. Pakistan obviously had no outside nuclear umbrella available and had to rely on its own capacity. Since 1998, Pakistan’s nuclear doctrine has maintained that its deterrent is entirely defensive and meant to be a shield against any intended aggression to destroy its territorial integrity.

India’s Cold Start Doctrine forced further fine-tuning of Pakistan’s thinking as to the practical applicability of its deterrent. Because the Cold Start Doctrine contemplated incursion and lopping off a vulnerable part of Pakistani territory, Pakistan responded by developing tactical nuclear weapons to be deployed against an invading force inside Pakistan. India has reacted by declaring that use of a nuclear weapon, however limited, anywhere (including inside Pakistan) would draw a massive nuclear retaliation. Regardless of the debates swirling around these scenarios, they provide the clearest indication of Pakistan’s determination to go to any extent to defend its territorial integrity.

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