

Nuclear Weapons Trends: South Asia and Middle East

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The Brookings Institution

CISAC/CSGAC Meeting

Beijing, December 6-7, 2004

Focus on Iran, India and Pakistan

Potential NWS:

- Saudi Arabia, especially in cooperation with Pakistan
- Syria,
- Egypt,
- Turkey

Iran

- Nuclear hedging strategy
- Surrounded by NWS (Israel, Pakistan, potentially Saudi Arabia)
- Diverse programs--we are not sure how many exist
- Assistance to others: possibly Hamas and Shi'a groups
- A US military takeout? Possible use of airpower to set program back

Pakistan and India

- China: “friend” to Pakistan and rival to India
- US: nominal ally with Pakistan, new strategic accords with India
- Nuclear capabilities: about 40 weapons each, but growing, plus air and missile delivery systems
- Long range Indian delivery systems coming on-line (SSBN, missiles)
- Requirement for more testing?

Nuclear Doctrines

- Classic nuclear/conventional arms race like NATO-WTO, complicated by China's role
- Pakistan: doctrine echoes 1950s US and NATO: nukes balance Indian conventional dominance
- India: nuclear weapons will not be used, limited war possible below the nuclear threshold; new Indian army doctrine just announced

Recent Crises

- 1987, 1990, 1999, 2004 all had nuclear dimension
- Lessons: both sides over-confident that they can manage another crisis
- In 1999 and 2002 Some US and Chinese role to resolve or end crises

Nuclear Transfers

- India: very good record so far
- Pakistan: not only rival to India, but sees itself as the most advanced Islamic scientific state
- Special Saudi connection
- Urgent need to discover how far Pakistani scientists have gone

Some Policy Ideas

- “Grand bargain”: keep Indian and Pakistani programs “regional” in exchange for recognition of nuclear status, perhaps civilian nuclear technology under tight verification
- Get both into various control regimes, perhaps special protocol to NPT
- Prepare severe sanctions for future leakage of technology, fissile material to other states or non-state groups
- Work on India-Pakistan rapprochement, eventual normalization, including Kashmir dispute