

August 12, 1996

**US Embassy in New Delhi Telegram 9250 to State
Department, 'Ambassador's Meeting with
Opposition Leader'**

Citation:

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Summary:

Report on US Ambassador to India Frank Wisner's meeting with Indian Opposition Leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee about the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and halting any nuclear test. The Ambassador found the meeting unproductive. The CTBT was central to the discussion but it was evident that Vajpayee was not interested and his "body language" indicated that he was inclined to favor a nuclear test. During one point in the discussion, Vajpayee asked, "What if we start underground tests?" According to the embassy's message, "we interpret his question about testing as indicating that [he] and the BJP would favor a test" and would not be persuaded by U.S. arguments—"reason"—to forego one.

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