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Science and Weapons Review	

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Science and Weapons Review

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	KEY JUDGMENTS: Pakistan—Progress Toward Advanced Weapons
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Pakistan—Progress Toward Advanced Weapons	
I SLAMABAD IS PRESSING forward with efforts to acquire and deploy advanced weapons in reaction to India's growing military capability. A relative decline in the deterrent value of Pakistan's conventional forces is leading Islamabad to seek ballistic missiles and a rapidly deployable nuclear weapons capability. Continued movement toward deployment of either missiles or nuclear weapons could lead to an accelerated arms race in South Asia.	Pakistani deployment of ballistic missiles or nuclear weapons would spur New Delhi's efforts to deploy similar weapons. Given India's greater financial and technical resources for supporting an arms race, Islamabad probably could not improve its relative military standing. Pakistani planners are betting that the increased chances for massive casualties and destruction would deter political leaders in New Delhi from making war on Pakistan.

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The advanced weapons development programs on the subcontinent could present the United States with the difficult task of balancing continued close ties to Islamabad with better relations with India. Deployment of nuclear weapons or ballistic missiles by either country would lead the other to expect diplomatic and economic retaliation by Washington. India already	believes the United States has done too little to curb Pakistan's nuclear program A nuclear deployment by Pakistan would surely encourage other threshold states to move closer to attaining nuclear weapons. Thus, the US-backed worldwide nonproliferation regime would be further weakened. This article is classified SECRET

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