

The nuclear dimension enters with the question of delivery systems. Both countries have deep strike aircraft capable of delivering conventional or nuclear ordinance, and both have fighter planes and other defensive strategies to counter such air strikes, although again, India has a decided advantage.<sup>5</sup>

That leaves missiles as the emerging critical factor in the strategic balance. One of the reasons given by India for seeing a deterioration in its security environment, and thus introducing nuclear weapons as a factor in the region, was the acquisition by Pakistan of advanced missile technology. Pakistan had made no secret of its efforts to do so, and indeed was quite open, even boastful about its success. Over time it introduced ever more powerful missile technology, and let India know about it.

The 'father' of the Pakistan's bomb, Abdul Qadeer Khan, is a highly respected scientist. He openly touted the Pakistan tests in May, which he reputedly oversaw,<sup>6</sup> as being intended to provide 'screw-on war heads'; and has announced that Pakistan will have new missiles, presumably the Ghauri II, capable of vastly expanded range. The map and accompanying text presented in the next two pages are extracted from a Pakistani military

---

<sup>5</sup> Pakistan attempted to even that advantage by adding to its F-16 arsenal, purchasing 71 more from the US. The sale was blocked in 1990 after the purchase but not delivery of 28 planes, when the US government said it could not certify that Pakistan was not attempting to become a nuclear weapon state, thus triggering the Pressler Amendment. Pakistan has recently announced a purchase of cheaper and less powerful planes from China. India even more recently has announced a major purchase of equipment from Russia. India was already able to build the Mig 29 under licence, long before the plane was supplied to the East European allies of the erstwhile Soviet Union.

<sup>6</sup> Some doubt has been raised about his role in the actual tests last May. The exact location of control in Pakistan is not clear. Shortly after the tests he told reporters Islamabad could deploy its nuclear weapons "within days if needed" and had begun mass production of its medium-range Ghauri missile, which could carry nuclear warheads. He added "Ghauri is a very reliable and proven system so why should we go for an unproven system? And it is very long-range and is highly mobile. You can see the mobile launcher," he said as he pointed to a photograph on a wall of a Ghauri mounted on a pad attached to a large truck. "Just you put it on the truck and you can move it. In one hour you can move it 60-70 km (37-44 miles) away. You fire it and within 10 minutes you can move to another place." Reuters, May 31, 1998.