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Saudi Govt. Accused of Considering Buying Nukes from Pakistan

By Jason Ditz

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Saudi King Abdullah met with Pakistan's new Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf a few days ago, seeking to solidify relations between the two nations as Saudi troops are being deployed on "training" missions to Pakistan.

The meeting is seemingly just one of many usual and uninteresting meetings, but has fueled more [speculation](#) from US policymakers and analysts that the Saudi government is again sending out feelers about the prospect of buying nuclear weapons from Pakistan's arsenal.

The rumor has been [floating](#) around for years, and keeps coming to the surface every once in awhile, with Iran usually blamed for creating the Saudi interest by having a civilian nuclear program of their own.

Interestingly the [backstory](#) of Saudi interest has virtually nothing to do with Iran, and include allegations that they tried once to buy nuclear weapons from Saddam Hussein. This failed, presumably, because Saddam didn't ever actually have any.

But Pakistan does, and has a long-standing defense relationship with the Saudi monarchy. The flurries of speculation, which at times have included claims Pakistan [would](#) place their own nukes in Saudi Arabia for or have a couple nukes "set aside" for the Saudis is sure to continue, but which parts are true and which are just wild guesses remain uncertain.