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E.O. 12365: DECL. CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: KNOU KSSA EMBQ DE PK
SUBJECT: CHINA’S NUCLEAR REACTOR DEAL WITH PAKISTAN
CHINESE STEPS TOWARD JOINING NPT

REF: AI ISLAMABAD 00022 D 01 ISLAMABAD 19676

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DEPARTMENT NOTES PRESS REPORTS AND GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN’S PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REF AI THAT GOP AND CHINESE OFFICIALS SIGNED AGREEMENT IN BEIJING DECEMBER 31 FOR CHINESE SUPPLY OF 300 MW NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO PAKISTAN. WHILE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE REACTOR WILL APPARENTLY BE SUBJECT TO IAEA SAFEGUARDS, AND WHILE THE RELATIVE TRANSPARENCY ACCOMPANYING THIS DEAL (IN CONTRAST WITH MANY OTHER RECENT CHINESE NUCLEAR TRANSACTIONS) IS A WELCOME DEVELOPMENT, WE ARE NEVERTHLESS DISAPPOINTED THAT THE TERMS OF THE DEAL EVIDENTLY DO NOT INCLUDE THE FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS EXPORT CONDITION WE HAD URGED CHINA TO INSIST ON. WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE LATTER OMISSION AND RESTATE THE CASE FOR FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS AS A NUCLEAR EXPORT REQUIREMENT. CHINA’S DEAL WITH PAKISTAN IN EFFECT DISRUPTS A DE FACTO NUCLEAR SUPPLIER CONSENSUS AGAINST SUPPLYING SIGNIFICANT NUCLEAR COMMODITIES SUCH AS REACTORS TO PAKISTAN IN THE ABSENCE OF FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS. IT ALSO GOES AGAINST THE RECENT TREND OF SUPPLIERS TO MAKE IT THEIR GENERAL POLICY TO REQUIRE FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS AS A CONDITION FOR SIGNIFICANT NUCLEAR EXPORTS TO NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATE DESTINATIONS. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO MAKE POINTS IN PARAGRAPH 4 BELOW.

3. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, WE NOTE THE RECENT DECISION BY THE NATIONAL PEOPLE’S CONGRESS TO APPROVE CHINA’S ACCESSION TO THE NPT. WE SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY PRESSER POINTS ON FSS AND PAKISTAN BY EXPRESSING U.S. SATISFACTION.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A JOHNSTON
DATE/CASE ID: 27 AUG 2003 200102166

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