INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

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TO: The Secretary

FROM: NP - Vann Van Diepen, Acting
NEA - James A. Larocco, Acting
EAP - James A. Kelly

SUBJECT: Update on Efforts to Prevent Iraqi Procurement of Aluminum Tubes

IAEA to Inspect Tubes. IAEA Action Team experts will arrive in Jordan on July 3. They plan to take samples of the tubes to determine whether they violate UN sanctions on weapons/dual-use items. (While our information indicates that the tubes are, indeed, prohibited weapons items, it will be important for the IAEA to verify this independently.) Definitive analysis of the samples cannot be done on site and could take several days.

Briefing the Chinese. We have received clearance from points acknowledging China's responsiveness in this case that can be used publicly, if necessary. We also have clearance on points to use privately with the PRC to give them a heads up that the interdiction could become public. We also will urge China to exercise strict controls over its exports to Iraq. We will coordinate the timing of that approach with

Publicizing the Shipments. Action Team officials believe that the IAEA should report its findings to the UN Sanctions Committee, even if it concludes that the tubes do not meet specifications for a nuclear end use. We agree that this is the right course of action. The Action Team will need IAEA Director General El Baradei's approval, however, to submit such a report. The Mission in Vienna is following this closely and will inform us immediately if there is a need for Washington to weigh in with the DG.
CIA Briefing to Congress. The DO called this afternoon to inform us that the Agency's Congressional Affairs Office had verbally notified the Hill about this issue on Friday, June 29. We are not aware that anyone in the Department or Embassy Amman was informed in advance. We understand the briefing went beyond the intelligence to include a review of our diplomatic efforts. We have asked for a copy of the briefing notes that CIA has prepared to send to the Hill as a follow-up to the verbal briefing.