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ACTION OES-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-10 ACDE-00 AID-00 AIT-03 AMAD-01 CIAE-00
CIP-00 COME-00 OASY-00 DINT-00 DODE-00 DOEE-00 ITCE-00
SRPP-00 EAP-01 EB-00 E-00 UTED-00 H-01 TEDE-00
INR-00 IO-00 ITC-01 L-01 ADS-00 M-00 NASA-01
NAS-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 NSF-01 OIC-02 PM-00 PRS-00
CIO-00 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00 STR-00 T-00 USIE-00
EPAE-00 PMB-00 G-00 /024W
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R 191045Z FEB 97
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8751
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMCONSUL OSAKA KOB
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL SHENYANG
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI
HQ EPA WASHDC
AMCONSUL FUKUOKA
AIT TAIPEI 3142
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU
AMCONSUL CHENGDU

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STATE FOR A/S CLAUSSEN
STATE FOR OES/EGC/WICK/WRE, OES/EX/KIM, EAP/CM, ENAV
EPA/OIA FOR STROTHE UNCLASSIFIED

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Alan Flanigan, Senior Reviewer

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SENV, CH
SUBJECT: COOL CHINESE RESPONSE TO U.S. PROPOSAL FOR A CLIMATE CHANGE PROTOCOL
1. SUMMARY: MOFA TREATY AND LAW DEPUTY DIVISION DIRECTOR WANG ZONGLAI TOLD ESTOFF THAT WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS FIND THE U.S. CLIMATE CHANGE PROTOCOL GOES TOO FAR IN CALLING FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO REDUCE EMISSIONS. A DETAILED CHINESE RESPONSE TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL HAS NOT YET BEEN PREPARED. WANG SAID CHINA SHARES THE VIEWS OF OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD RESOLVE THEIR OWN DIFFERENCES ON EMISSIONS REDUCTION AND IMPLEMENT THE COMMITMENTS THEY HAVE ALREADY MADE. END SUMMARY.

2. CHINESE MOFA DEPARTMENT OF TREATY AND LAW DEPUTY DIVISION DIRECTOR WANG ZONGLAI ON FEBRUARY 19 INFORMED ESTOFF THAT WORKING LEVEL CHINESE OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. CLIMATE CHANGE PROTOCOL PROPOSAL GOES TOO FAR BEYOND THE 1995 BERLIN AGREEMENT IN CALLING FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO REDUCE THEIR EMISSIONS. WANG SAID A DETAILED CHINESE RESPONSE TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL PASSED EARLIER TO MOFA (REF A) IS STILL IN PREPARATION.

3. WHILE STRESSING THAT CHINA DOES NOT HAVE ITS OWN DISTINCT POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, WANG SAID THAT CHINA IN GENERAL AGREES WITH THE OPPOSITION OF THE GROUP OF 77 DEVELOPING NATIONS TO EMISSIONS REDUCTION COMMITMENTS ON THE PART OF DEVELOPING NATIONS. WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT CHINA DOES NOT HAVE ITS OWN DISTINCT POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, WANG AGREED TO HELP ESTOFF UNDERSTAND IN GENERAL THE VIEWS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (INCLUDING CHINA) ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD RESOLVE OWN DIFFERENCES

5. WANG NOTED DISAGREEMENTS AMONG DEVELOPED COUNTRIES — THE EUROPEAN UNION WANTS IMMEDIATE MANDATORY EMISSION LIMITS WHILE THE UNITED STATES IS RELUCTANT TO SEE LIMITS IMPOSED SOON. WANG SAID THAT
THESE DISAGREEMENTS ARE A MATTER FOR THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES -- THE MAJOR SOURCE OF POLLUTION, ESPECIALLY WHEN POLLUTION IS CONSIDERED ON A PER CAPITA BASIS -- TO RESOLVE AMONGST THEMSELVES. CHINA TAKES NO POSITION AND HAS NO VIEW ON HOW THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD HANDLE THIS MATTER. WANG NOTED THAT U.S. ANTHROPOGENIC CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

FIRST IMPLEMENT WHAT HAS BEEN AGREED UPON ALREADY

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6. WANG SAID WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IMPLEMENT THE COMMITMENTS THEY MADE AT RIO AND AGAIN AT BERLIN IN 1995. THE UN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE, SAID WANG, IS INDEED A FRAMEWORK -- EACH COUNTRY SETS FORTH FROM THE BASIC IDEAS OF THE AGREEMENT TO FIND A SOLUTION TO ITS OWN POLLUTION AND EMISSIONS PROBLEMS.

7. WANG STRESSED THAT CHINA IS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. [REFTEL C] WANG SAID THAT DEVELOPMENT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND SO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CANNOT COMMIT THEMSELVES TO REDUCING EMISSIONS. EACH COUNTRY MUST DEVELOP MEASURES ACCORDING TO ITS OWN SPECIFIC CONDITIONS.

8. WANG TOLD Eストフ THAT THE DIFFERING VIEWS OF THE DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED NATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE ARE WELL KNOWN TO EACH OTHER. NONETHELESS MUCH ROOM CAN BE FOUND FOR COOPERATION.

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RECENT REPORTING ON CHINESE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

9. REPORTS FROM EMBASSY BEIJING WRITTEN OVER THE
LAST SEVERAL MONTHS PROVIDE INFORMATION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN CHINA WHICH MAY HELP
UNDERSTAND THE CHINESE POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS.

10. EMBASSY BEIJING REFTELS C - E EXAMINE THE
CHINESE ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION AND POLICY. PREMIER
LI PENG’S STATEMENT ‘ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MUST NOT
TAKE PLACE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE ENVIRONMENT’ IS
EXAMINED IN REF C. REF D EXAMINES A REPORT ON
CHINESE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS WRITTEN BY THE CHINESE
STATE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION. REF E LOOKS
AT THE ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN CHINA.
REF F DISCUSSES CHINESE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS AND
GROWING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.
SASSER

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