SECRET

CONVERSATION WITH SENIOR GOI NUCLEAR OFFICIAL

1. IN LONG CONVERSATION TODAY WITH HONJI SETHNA, MEMBER
   GOI ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION AND DIRECTOR BHABHA ATOMIC
   RESEARCH CENTER IN BOMBAY, FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST
   EMERGED:

2. INDO-SOVIET NUCLEAR AGREEMENT:

   SETHNA CHARACTERIZED AGREEMENT AS QTE SEVENTEEN
   PAGES OF CRAP UNQUOTE. SAID HE EXPECTED VERY LITTLE TO COME
   OUT OF ACCORD SINCE QTE: SOVIETS ARE NEITHER FORTHRIGHT NOR
   HONEST IN THEIR DEALINGS IN NUCLEAR FIELD UNQUOTE. SETHNA
   OBSERVED THAT ON EVERY VISIT TO DATE MADE BY INDIAN ATOMIC
   SCIENTISTS TO USSR QTE: WE HAVE BEEN TREATED LIKE KINGS AND
   LIED TO AS IF WE WERE CHILDREN UNQUOTE. HE SAID SOVIET
   OBSESSION WITH SECRECY IN THEIR NUCLEAR PROGRAM WOULD MAKE

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VALUE OF COLLABORATION qte almost meaningless unote from indian point of view.

4. GOI ATOMIC TEST MONITORING FACILITIES:

SETHNA EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT MAIN REASON BEHIND SUDDEN SOVIET INTEREST IN NUCLEAR COLLABORATION WAS MOSCOW'S DESIRE TO OBTAIN GOI DATA ON CHICOM NUCLEAR TESTS. HE STATED THAT ON BASIS INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM NEWSPAPERS AND QTE FROM OTHER SOURCES UNOTE ON RESULTS OF USAEC's MONITORING OF CHICOM TESTS QTE OUR ACCURACY IS MUCH SUPERIOR TO YOURS IN THIS FIELD UNOTE. HE ADDED THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE ON LAST THREE CHICOM TESTS.

5. SOVIET NUCLEAR FUEL RE-FABRICATION TECHNIQUES

SETHNA STATED THE QTE BEST SCIENTIST THE SOVIETS HAVE UNOTE IN THE FIELD OF FUEL RE-FABRICATION TECHNIQUES ACCOMPANIED THE MOROKHOV MISSION TO INDIA LAST MONTH. ACCORDING SETHNA THIS SCIENTIST CONFIDENTLY TOLD SENIOR MEMBER OF TROMAY STAFF THAT INDIANS ARE QTE WAY AHEAD UNOTE OF SOVIETS IN THIS AREA. SETHNA OBSERVED IT IS POSSIBLE SOVIET WAS PLAYING ROLE OF FOOL, BUT FROM EXTRAORDINARY INTEREST HE SHOWN IN INDIAN TECHNIQUES SETHNA AND HIS COLLEAGUES DEDUCED THEY (INDIANS) WERE PROBABLY AHEAD.

6. NPT

SETHNA SAID PERSONALLY ONLY THING HE OBJECTED TO IN TREATY WAS INSPECTION PROVISIONS. HE ADMITTED THIS WAS IRRATIONAL OBJECTION IN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT BUT, LIKE IT OR NOT, HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO KEEP OUTSIDERS FROM QTE LOOKING OVER HIS SHOULDER UNOTE. HE DID NOT FORESEE AN INDIAN SIGNATURE TO NPT QTE UNLESS MRS. GANDHI WANTS TO COMMIT POLITICAL SUICIDE UNOTE. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES MIGHT BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN INDIAN THINKING IN A YEAR OR SO.

A. PROTECT SOURCE.
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FOR BOMBAY. UNDERSTAND SETHNA MEETING WITH CHENEY
TOMORROW. PLEASE DO NOT RPT NOT ALLUDE TO THIS CONVERSATION
IN ANY WAY.

GP-3. WEATHERSBY