E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PAM: CB: AG
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE: CHINA-ALGERIA NUCLEAR COOPERATION

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN’S COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON SINO-ALGERIAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION. APPROVED GUIDANCE FOR POSTS TO USE AS NECESSARY FOLLOWING PARA THREE.

2. TEXT OF SPOKESMAN’S COMMENTS AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING ON CHINA-ALGERIA NUCLEAR COOPERATION:

“BBC’S ZIFF ASKED: “DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE PIECE IN THE WASHINGTON TIMES TODAY ON THE ALGERIAN-CHINESE NUCLEAR PROGRAM?” USING GUIDANCE THAT WAS PROVIDED THIS MORNING BOUCHER SAID: “WE HAVE INDICATIONS THAT CHINA IS PROVIDING NUCLEAR-RELATED ASSISTANCE TO ALGERIA. I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE NO REASON TO CONCLUDE THAT CHINA HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ALGERIA FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. CHINA HAS PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY EXPLAINED THAT IT DOES NOT ENGAGE IN NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND THAT IT WILL NOT HELP OTHER COUNTRIES DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WE HAVE STRESSED OUR CONCERNS ABOUT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION TO THE CHINESE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS. WE’VE TOLD THEM THAT WE EXPECT CHINA TO ABIDE BY ITS PUBLIC COMMITMENTS ON NONPROLIFERATION AS WELL AS THE PRIVATE ASSURANCLES TO US. AND OF COURSE, THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT WE CONTINUE TO DISCUSS WITH THE CHINESE, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW CHINA’S NONPROLIFERATION PRACTICES TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY ARE CONSISTENT WITH ITS PROMISES IN THIS AREA.”

ZIFF INQUIRED: “WHAT SORT OF ASSISTANCE THEN?” BOUCHER SAID “I’M AFRAID I’M NOT ABLE TO GO INTO ANY SPECIFICS NOR THE SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS THAT ARE IN THE ARTICLE.”

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TO AMBASSAD Y BEIJING 5567/58 PRIORITY
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AMBASSAD PARIS
UNMISSION USX NEW YORK 1925/76
UNMISSION US/NEW YORK 4718/19
UNCLASSIFIED STATE 119576
FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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ZIFF INQUIRED: “WHAT SORT OF ASSISTANCE THEN?” BOUCHER SAID “I’M AFRAID I’M NOT ABLE To GO INTO ANY SPECIFICS NOR THE SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS THAT ARE IN THE ARTICLE.”
HOWEVER, BEFORE US NUCLEAR EXPORTS TO CHINA UNDER THE AGREEMENT MAY BEGIN, THERE ARE TWO LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS THAT MUST BE SATISFIED.

P.L. 99-183 REQUIRES THE PRESIDENT TO MAKE A CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS ON THREE MATTERS AND SUBMIT A REPORT TO CONGRESS ON CHINA'S NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES. (SEE BACKGROUND FOR LISTING OF THE THREE ISSUES TO BE CERTIFIED.)

IN ADDITION, P.L. 101-246 (THE STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION BILL FOR FY 96-97) REQUIRES SUBMISSION OF A REPORT TO CONGRESS BY THE PRESIDENT THAT EITHER THE PRC HAS MADE PROGRESS ON POLITICAL REFORM IN CERTAIN WAYS SPECIFIED BY THE LEGISLATION OR THAT IT IS IN THE US NATIONAL INTEREST TO PERMIT US NUCLEAR TRANSFERS TO CHINA.

NEITHER OF THESE REQUIREMENTS HAS BEEN SATISFIED. THE US IS STILL WAITING SATISFACTORY RESPONSES FROM THE PRC ON MATTERS WE HAVE RAISED SINCE THE US-PRC NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT TOOK EFFECT.

BACKGROUND

THE MATTERS THAT MUST BE CERTIFIED UNDER P.L. 99-183 ARE:

1) THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION AND VISITS CALLED FOR BY THE AGREEMENT ARE DESIGNED TO BE EFFECTIVE IN ENSURING THAT NUCLEAR EXPORTS UNDER THE AGREEMENT ARE USED SOLELY FOR INTENDED PEACEFUL PURPOSES;

2) THAT CHINA IS NOT PRECLUDED UNDER SECTION 129 OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY ACT FROM RECEIVING US NUCLEAR EXPORTS; AND

3) THAT THE OBLIGATION TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY A REQUEST TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED IN ARTICLE 5 (2) OF THE AGREEMENT, SUCH AS THE REPROCESSING OF MATERIAL SUBJECT TO THE AGREEMENT, DOES NOT PREJUDICE THE DECISION OF THE US TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE SUCH A REQUEST.

END PRESS GUIDANCE.

4. ALGIERS MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. KIMMITT