INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action
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RR RUEHCR
DE RUESBA 317 30/2108Z
Info
R 3020437_ZEA
PM AMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
SS TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC
G INFO RU&MVL/AMBASSY TEL AVIV STATE GRNC
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AEC
EMBASSY DELIVERED FOLLOW-UP NOTE TO FONOFF NOVEMBER 27
URGING EARLY RSP MSE TO PREVIOUS INQUIRY WHETHER GOA
PREPARED APPLY SAFEGUARDS CONNECTION URANIUM SALE TO ISRAEL.
IN DISCUSSION WITH FONOFF OFFICIALS, EMBOFF WAS TOLD FONOFF
HAD, AS RESULT OUR INQUIRY, MADE FORMAL REQUEST OF GOA
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT BUT THAT
TO DATE NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED. OFFICIALS ASSURED US
FONOFF WOULD PRESS FOR REPLY SOONEST.
CFN 749 30 6 549 436 27

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ACCORDING TO REMARKS BY OFFICIALS, SENTIMENT IN FONOFF
APPEARS FAVOR APPLICATION SAFEGUARDS NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF A
DISPOSITION TO BELIEVE THAT COMMON APPLICATION THEREOF
MAY BE EFFECTIVE IN MINIMIZING PROLIFERATION NUCLEAR
WEAPONS BUT, AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, BECAUSE GOA
SENSITIVE TO PROBABLY ATTACKS FROM SOME DOMESTIC QUARTERS
AS RESULT SALE. IN THIS VIEW APPLICATION SAFEGUARDS,
AT LEAST NOMINALLY CONSISTENT WITH THOSE OF IAEA, WOULD
ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING THAT ARGENTINA ENGAGING IN TRANSFER
NUCLEAR MATERIALS ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH PEACEFUL USES
THEREOF AND THUS PLACE BEST POSSIBLE FACE ON TRANSACTION.
PROPOSED SALE NOT YET PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE IN ARGENTINA.

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-2- 749, NOVEMBER 30, 6 PM, FROM BUENOS AIRES

EMBASSY DOES NOT REPEAT NOT CONCLUDE THAT FOREGOING, AND PERHAPS TENTATIVE, FONOFF VIEW NECESSARILY PORTRAYS ULTIMATE GOA POSITION, BUT BELIEVES IT CONSTITUTES REASON TO PROVIDE GOA FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO WORK OUT RESPONSE OUR INQUIRY WITHOUT OUR TAKING, FOR THE MOMENT, FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS AT HIGHEST LEVELS HERE OR AT TEL AVIV. IN VIEW QUIMILLALT'S SENSITIVITY TO OUR APPROACHING ISRAELIS BEFORE MATTER

PAGE 3 RUESBA 317 S E C R E T THOROUGHLY EXAMINED BY GOA, WE BELIEVE APPROACH AT TEL AVIV UNLIKELY TO AFFECT GOA DECISION FAVORABLY.

QUIMILLALT HAS DEPARTED BAIRES FOR VIENNA. EMBASSY UNDERTAKING DETERMINE FROM CNEA IF ITS POSITION THIS MATTER FIRMED UP BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE.

GP-1. MARTIN

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