

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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4.3

US/Iran

VZCZMLT805:
MULT
ACTION

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZYUW

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DISTR

CJCS(01) DJ8(03) SJCS(02) J3(14) J5(02) NMCC SECDEF(07)
SECDEF: ASD:ISA(10) ATSDIAE(01) DPBE(01) ASD:PA(01) DIA: DIA(15)

NMIC

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CMC

CSAF WASH DC

CNO WASH DC

CSA WASH DC

FILE(1)

(058)

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret R. Grafeld, Dir

(X) Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify

Date 6/10/8 Exception

Release in SAS

#20

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2539

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4198

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, IR

SUBJ: HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM (HEU) EXPORT TO IRAN

REF: STATE 105139

IMMEDIATE

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
 Retain Class'n Change to
 Declassify in part and excise as shown

EO 12958, 25X() () ()
 Declassify After (not obtained)
 With concurrence Date 6/25/88
IPS by RM Gibson

ISA

1. WHILE WE APPRECIATE THAT REQUEST FOR 20.2 KILOGRAMS OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM FOR TEHRAN RESEARCH REACTOR FAR EXCEEDS FUEL CEILING PROVIDED FOR IN EXISTING BILATERAL RESEARCH AGREEMENT, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT REFUSAL WILL FEED GOI'S WORST FEARS CONCERNING RELIABILITY OF US AS FUTURE SUPPLIER OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS. AGAINST BACKGROUND OF MAY 4 PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPROVAL OF SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF HEU TO 8 PROJECTS IN CANADA, THE NETHERLANDS, JAPAN, BELGIUM, AND FRG, SUSPICIONS WILL

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~~ALSO BELIEVED THAT US HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN VARIOUS CUSTOMERS IN FAVOR OF THE INDUSTRIAL WEST. JUXTAPOSITION OF THIS DEVELOPMENT WITH SECRETARY'S IMMINENT ARRIVAL AND EXPECTED DISCUSSION OF FUTURE US/GOI COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR ENERGY FIELD SEEMS UNFORTUNATE.~~

~~2. WOULD APPRECIATE URGENTLY THEREFORE FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF PARA THREE REFTEL AND INDICATION OF WHETHER IT LIKELY AMENDMENT TO EXISTING BILATERAL RESEARCH AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED QUICKLY TO ACCOMMODATE EXPORT REQUEST. IF NOT, WOULD APPRECIATE FULLER EXPLANATION OF WHAT OUR POSTURE IS OR LIKELY TO BE WITH RESPECT TO THIS AND OTHER FUEL REQUESTS.~~

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DISTR

CJCS(01) DJS(03) SJCS(02) J3(14) J4(08) J5(02) SECDEF(07)
SECDEF: ASD:ISA(10) ASD:IL(02) ATSD:AE(01) DP&E(01) GC(01)
ASD:PA(01) DIA: DIA(15) NMIC
- CMC WASH DC
- CMC
- CSAF WASH DC
- CNO WASH DC
- CSA WASH DC
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DE RUEHCAA #5139 1300531
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 7351
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: STATE 105139

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, TECH, IR

SUBJECT: HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM (HEU) EXPORT TO IRAN

1. FOLLOWING IS FOR POST'S INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE IN ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH CONCERNED GOI OFFICIALS.

2. GENERAL ATOMIC COMPANY HAS FILED AN APPLICATION WITH THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) TO EXPORT 20.2 KILOGRAMS OF HEU TRIGA FUEL FOR THE TEHRAN RESEARCH REACTOR. ACCORDING TO GA, FUEL WOULD BE USED TO REPLACE EXISTING PLATE-TYPE FUEL ELEMENTS TO EXTEND CORE LIFETIME AND BOOST

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POWER LEVEL FROM FIVE TO TEN MEGAWATTS.

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES, NRC RECENTLY REQUESTED EXECUTIVE BRANCH VIEWS ON PROPOSED EXPORT. WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT QUANTITY TO BE EXPORTED FAR EXCEEDS FUEL CEILING PROVIDED FOR IN EXISTING BILATERAL RESEARCH AGREEMENT (ARTICLE 4, PARAGRAPH 2); THEREFORE, NO FURTHER ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON APPLICATION UNTIL NEW OR AMENDED AGREEMENT ENTERS INTO FORCE WHICH COULD ACCOMMODATE THE EXPORT.

4. FURTHERMORE, UNDER NEWLY ANNOUNCED GUIDELINES, EXECUTIVE BRANCH ACTION ON SUCH AN EXPORT WOULD REQUIRE:

A) DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL SINCE IT INVOLVES MORE THAN 15 KILOGRAMS OF HEU;

B) WELL-SUPPORTED ECONOMIC/TECHNICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR CONTINUED USE OF HEU, AND

C) EXPLORATION WITH GOI OF RETURN OF SPENT FUEL TO U.S. AS A MEANS OF MINIMIZING HEU IN-COUNTRY INVENTORIES.

5. CA HAS BEEN ADVISED OF FOREGOING AND, WHEN GIVEN CHOICE OF WITHDRAWING THEIR APPLICATION OR LEAVING IT IN SUSPENSE PENDING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF A NEW OR AMENDED AGREEMENT, HAVE EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR THE LATTER.

FYI: IN PRINCIPLE, POSSIBILITY MIGHT EXIST FOR TRANSFER OF MATERIAL UNDER AEGIS OF U.S.-IAEA AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, INCREASED CONCERNS OVER LACK OF BACK-UP SAFEGUARDS RIGHTS WHEN IAEA TRANSFER MECHANISM IS UTILIZED MAKES SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF SUCH AN OPTION UNLIKELY. END FYI. CHRISTOPHER BT

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