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Authority NND 969016

by JW NAPA Date 8-12

FSE 13 China

XRAE 13 IAEA



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-14

INFO - OCT-01 EUR-20 ADP-00 ACDA-19 EIAE-00 INR-09 IO-13  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 DST-04 RSE-01 SCI-05 GAC-01 PH-08  
SS-14 AEC-11 T-03 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-02  
DODE-00 PRS-01 RSR-01 /141 W

Taipei 075  
1/3/73

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R 311119Z JAN 73  
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7677  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
EC BRUSSELS  
IAEA VIENNA 76  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T TAIPEI 00675

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ROC REPROCESSING PLANT

REFS: A) STATE 12197  
B) TAIPEI 0308  
C) TOKYO 1035

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR CALLED ON FONGJIN SHEN  
TO RE-EMPHASIZE CONCERN OF USG OVER ROC ACQUISITION OF  
NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT. SHEN SAID THAT ROC STILL  
HAS NOT MADE A DECISION, ADDING THAT ROC OF COURSE IN  
ANY EVENT HAS NO INTENTION OF ACQUIRING NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS. AMBASSADOR PERMED DECISION TO BE TAKEN A  
POLICY AND NOT A TECHNICAL MATTER AND STRESSED EMPHATIC  
HOPE ROC WOULD NOT SET UP AN UNNECESSARY AND UNECONOMIC  
DOMESTIC REPROCESSING PLANT WHICH MIGHT JEOPARDIZE MUCH  
LARGER AND MORE IMPORTANT ROC NUCLEAR ENERGY INTERESTS.  
END SUMMARY.



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WM I CALLED ON MONSIEUR SHEN CHANG-HUAN JANUARY 31 TO RENEW AND REINFORCE OUR REPRESENTATION AGAINST PROPOSED ROC REPROCESSING PLANT. CHU CHIN-WANG OF MOFA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND POLICOUNS THOMAS ATTENDED.

3. I TOLD SHEN THAT I ANTICIPATED THAT HE MIGHT BY NOW HAVE DEFINITE WORD FOR ME OF A FAVORABLE ROC DECISION ON THE REPROCESSING PLANT ISSUE FOLLOWING OUR JAN 15 CONVERSATION. SHEN SAID THAT HE HAD REPORTED OUR EARLIER CONVERSATION TO THE PREMIER AND THE ROC'S ATOMIC ENERGY COUNCIL. HE SAID NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN REACHED BY THE ROC. HE WISHED TO INFORM ME, HOWEVER, THAT THE ROC HAD NEITHER THE INTENT NOR THE ABILITY TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND THAT ITS CHIEF INTEREST IN A NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT WAS TO ASSURE A DEPENDABLE AND ADEQUATE FUEL SUPPLY FOR ITS NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS.

4. HE REFERRED TO THE CONVERSATIONS OF MR. HELFRICH OF THE AEC (REF C) WITH ROC REPRESENTATIVES ON HIS RECENT VISIT HERE. HE THOUGHT THAT SOMETHING MIGHT DEVELOP FROM THOSE TALKS. I POINTED OUT THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH MR. HELFRICH HAD HAD WERE VERY USEFUL, BUT WERE LARGELY OF A TECHNICAL NATURE. THE MATTER TO BE DECIDED WAS AN ISSUE OF HIGH POLICY. I NOTED THAT THE ESSENTIAL PURPOSE OF MY CALL WAS TO HIGHLIGHT THE STRONG CONCERN WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES VIEWS THE ROC'S POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF A REPROCESSING PLANT. I THEN MADE ORALLY POINTS IN REF A PARA 2A AND LEFT MEMORANDUM WITH HIM COVERING POINTS (4) AND (5). AFTER READING IT TO HIM, I ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE ROC TO STIMULATE THE SUSPICIONS OF THIRD COUNTRIES REGARDING THE NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES OF ROC. I REAFFIRMED U.S. OFFER TO ASSIST THE ROC IN OBTAINING REPROCESSING SERVICES IN THE UNITED STATES OR ELSEWHERE.

5. I SAID THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER THE ROC WISHED TO PROCEED WITH A MARGINAL SMALL LOCAL PROCESSING PLANT AT THE RISK OF JEOPARDIZING THE ROC'S PROJECTED FOUR GREAT NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS WHICH ARE OF OVERRIDING CONSEQUENCE TO THE FUTURE OF THE ENTIRE ROC ECONOMY. I SAID WE DID NOT SEE HOW THERE COULD BE ANY QUESTION ABOUT THE OVER-

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WHELMING BALANCE OF ADVANTAGE BEING IN FAVOR OF FOLLOWING THE PRUDENT AND ECONOMICAL COURSE. I SAID THE UNITED STATES WAS CONCERNED AS A FRIEND AND SUPPLIER OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. WE WANTED TO SEE THE EXISTING IAEA INSPECTION ROLE HERE PRESERVED AND PROTECTED. THIS WOULD FACILITATE OUR BILATERAL TRANSACTIONS WITH THE ROC IN THE NUCLEAR POWER FIELD.

6. SHEN REPLIED THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH DR. YEN CHEN-HSING OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COUNCIL AND REITERATED THAT THE MAIN ROC WORRY HAD BEEN THE FUEL SUPPLY. I NOTED OUR IMPRESSION THAT MOST OF THE POLICY LEVEL PEOPLE IN THE ROC'S ATOMIC ENERGY COUNCIL NOW AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO PROCEED WITH THE REPROCESSING PLANT. I HOPED THAT THE POSSIBLE INTEREST OF A FEW TECHNICIANS AND SCIENTISTS IN OBTAINING SUCH A PLANT WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO OUTWEIGH THE BROADER CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED. CHEN SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HE WOULD REPORT FULLY TO THE EXECUTIVE YUAN.

7. I REMARKED THAT I HOPED HE WOULD BEER WITH ME FOR SETTING FORTH THE CASE QUITE CANDIDLY, WITHOUT MINIMIZING THE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS INHERENT IN THE ISSUE. THE MINISTER SAID HE WAS GLAD I HAD BEEN EXPLICIT. GDS. MCCONAUGHY

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