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Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: Feb. 9, 1973

J/9/73
A/R/C

SUBJECT: Nuclear Programs in Republic of China

PARTICIPANTS: John Wilberforce, Counselor, British Embassy
Christopher Makins, First Secretary, Brith Embassy
Herman Pollack, SCI
Robert Webber, SCI/AE
Robert Loftness, SCI/AE

Copies to: Larry Finch, INR
H. Handyside, PM
Mary McDonnell, EA/ROC
A. Friedman, AEC

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made 2/9/73

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On February 7, 1973, Wilberforce and Makins called on the Department to discuss recent nuclear developments in the ROC. Wilberforce stated that he had heard of the recent concern expressed by the USG over the proposed supply by a German firm of a chemical reprocessing plant to the ROC. Mr. Pollack confirmed that the USG had made representations both in Bonn and Taipei to the effect that the construction of a reprocessing plant in the ROC would be unwise politically and might jeopardize the ability of the IAEA to continue its safeguards activity in the ROC. The British concur in the USG position on this matter.

The primary purpose of the visit was to ask for USG guidance on two subjects:

1. ROC Nuclear Intentions. British intelligence has reported activity at a facility in northwest Taiwan which they suspect is related to the development of a nuclear weapons capability. They would like to have our assessment of activities in the ROC in this regard. He stated that the USG probably has the British intelligence reports on this matter.

SCI/AE:RLLoftness:drw
(Drafting Office and Officer)

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2.

2. Fuel Supply for Heavy Water Research Reactor.

The ROC has recently asked for proposals for the supply of 30,000 kg of natural uranium metal for fuel for the heavy water research reactor nearing completion in Taiwan. This quantity of uranium would be sufficient for three years operation of the Canadian-supplied, 40 megawatt (thermal) reactor. Wilberforce understands that three countries have been asked to bid on this fuel order. The fuel would be subject to IAEA safeguards.

Wilberforce asked if we saw anything unusual in the order and if we had any objection to a bid being made from the UK.

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