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Authority NND 959000
By TJ NARA Date 9/7/89

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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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INFO RUEPXG/AEC GERMANTOWN
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SUBJ: GERMAN NUCLEAR REACTOR FOR TAIWAN

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A GERMAN SCIENCE MINISTRY OFFICIAL INFORMALLY REQUESTED AN EMBASSY OFFICER'S VIEW ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECT. THE INFORMATION IS AS REPORTED BY THE SINGLE OFFICIAL. NO FURTHER CORROBORATION OF THE FACTS HAS BEEN SOUGHT. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS WASHINGTON MAY HAVE REPORTS FROM OTHER SOURCES ON THIS MATTER.

THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA WISHES TO PURCHASE FROM THE SIEMENS COMPANY A MULTI-PURPOSE RESEARCH REACTOR SIMILAR TO THE 50-MEGAWATT MZR WHICH

RECENTLY WENT CRITICAL AT THE FRG'S KARLSRUHE RESEARCH CENTER.

PAGE 2 RUFHOL 1183 CONFIDENTIAL
THE COST MIGHT BE \$50 MILLION. THE POSSIBILITY OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS WAS MENTIONED. THE FEDERAL SCIENCE MINISTRY (IN CHARGE OF NUCLEAR MATTERS) IS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THE SALE, BUT THE GERMAN FONOFF REPORTEDLY IS AGAINST IT FOR "POLITICAL REASONS". THE SCIENCE MINISTRY WANTS TO TAKE SERIOUS ISSUE WITH THE FONOFF, BUT WOULD NOT BE INCLINED TO DO SO IF THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT ALSO WERE OPPOSED TO SUCH A SALE ON POLITICAL GROUNDS.

THE OFFICIAL WISHES TO AVOID A SITUATION WHERE THE U.S. MIGHT IN THE FUTURE URGE THE FONOFF TO RECONSIDER A POSITIVE DECISION AT THE PRESENT TIME. CANCELLATION OF THE PROJECT AFTER IT WAS ONCE BEGUN WOULD BE BOTH PAINFUL AND COSTLY.

ANY COMMENTS FROM ADDRESSEES ABOUT THE PROJECT OR U.S. POLICY TOWARD IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED. EMBASSY WISHES MAXIMUM PROTECTION FOR SOURCE.
-MCGHEE-

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