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Authority NND 969 050  
By JE NARA Date 4-22

AEI China

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SECRET

EA/ROC: MEMCDONNELL: BDS  
3/20/73 EXT 21321  
EA: RLSNEIDER

EA/ROC - MR. HOROWITZ  
INR/RSG: MR. MONK

SCI/AE: MR. BREWSTER

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ROUTINE TAIPEI

ROUTINE TOKYO

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, TW, MCAP, PINR  
SUBJECT: ROC NUCLEAR RESEARCH

TOKYO FOR HELFRICH

RLS R  
MEM re  
HEH  
MONK <sup>new</sup>  
BREWSTER

1. VICTOR CHENG, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ROC/AEC CALLED UPON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SNEIDER MARCH 20 AT LATTER'S REQUEST. CHENG WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ROC EMBASSY SCIENCE COUNSELOR PAN HSUEH-CHANG.

2. CHENG REVIEWED DEVELOPMENT OF ROC NUCLEAR RESEARCH FACILITIES AT TSING HUA UNIVERSITY, INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY (SHIH-MEN), CHUNG-SHAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE AND UNION INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

3. HE OBSERVED THAT ROC HAS HAD CLOSE RELATIONS WITH US AEC. HALF THE FUNDS NEEDED TO ACQUIRE TSING HUA POOL-TYPE RESEARCH REACTOR AND REACTOR ITSELF HAD COME FROM US, WHICH HAS ALSO PROVIDED SOME EQUIPMENT FROM ARGONNE LABORATORY AND AN ATOMS-FOR-PEACE EXHIBIT.

4. NOTING BROAD AND EXPANDING CHARACTER OF ROC NUCLEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM, SNEIDER ASKED WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE USEFUL FOR A US STUDY GROUP TO VISIT TAIWAN TO CONSIDER COURSE OF US/ROC NUCLEAR COOPERATION OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS. HE THOUGHT A NUMBER OF US OFFICIALS WOULD LIKE TO

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CLOSELY WITH ROC ON MUTUALLY PROFITABLE ACTIVITIES IN NUCLEAR AREA, INCLUDING SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL AND EQUIPMENT. CHENG WARMLY WELCOMED SUGGESTION.

5. SNEIDER REPORTED APPRECIATION OF US GOVERNMENT FOR ROC DECISION NOT TO PROCEED WITH PURCHASE AND CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING PILOT PLANT. CHENG REPLIED THAT HE HAD ONLY LEARNED ABOUT PROPOSED PILOT PLANT WHEN US GOVERNMENT PEOPLE ASKED HIM ABOUT IT WHEN HE WAS IN WASHINGTON LAST DECEMBER. AFTER RETURNING TO TAIPEI, HE LEARNED THAT A LABORATORY DIRECTOR INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING FOR ROC FULL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE FROM FABRICATION OF FUEL ELEMENTS TO REPROCESSING OF SPENT ELEMENTS, HAD PRICED A REPROCESSING PILOT PLANT IN EUROPE IN ORDER TO INCLUDE COST ESTIMATE IN BUDGET PROPOSAL.

6. SNEIDER SAID THAT US HAD FOUND OUT ABOUT ROC INTEREST IN REPROCESSING THROUGH EUROPEAN SOURCES. US HAD BEEN GREATLY CONCERNED. HE BELIEVED THAT CHENG APPRECIATED SENSITIVITY OF MATTER. US SUPPORT FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION BETWEEN  
~~AR COOPERATION~~ BETWEEN  
 AR COOPERATION WITH ROC DEPENDS UPON ROC ADHERENCE TO PEACEFUL USES. IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN THE FUTURE, HE THOUGHT IF ROC WERE TO LET US KNOW WHEN IT WAS CONSIDERING BUYING CERTAIN TYPES OF EQUIPMENT. IF IT HAD DONE SO WITH RESPECT TO REPROCESSING PILOT PLANT, MUCH OF THE MYSTERY WOULD HAVE BEEN REMOVED.

7. CHENG REPLIED THAT ROC DOES NOT HAVE ANY NUCLEAR SECRETS FROM ITS FRIENDS. ROC HAS PLACED ALL ITS NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTORS AND NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES IN AREA WHICH IS SAFEGUARDED BY IAEA. BOTH DR. BRUCE BILLINGS, FORMERLY SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE AMBASSADOR FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND MR. HELFRICH, AEC REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN TOKYO, HAD VISITED ROC NUCLEAR FACILITIES. CHENG RECALLED BILLINGS HAD ONCE REMARKED THAT PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON HAD NOT BELIEVED HIM WHEN HE HAD REPORTED THAT EVERYTHING IN THESE FACILITIES WAS IN ORDER. BILLINGS HAD SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE WELL FOR THE ROC TO OPEN ITS FACILITIES TO MORE PEOPLE FROM US.

8. IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING AT AEC, DR. CHENG BRIEFLY DESCRIBED PROGRESS ON A LABORATORY-SCALE FUEL REPROCESSING FACILITY NOW BEING CONSTRUCTED AT NUCLEAR SCIENCE INSTITUTE (NEXT DOOR TO CHUNG-SHAN). BUILDING IS NOW COMPLETE AND STANDS EMPTY, BUT EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE INSTALLED BY END OF YEAR. CAPACITY OF THIS FACILITY WILL BE MINUSCULE: IT WILL PROCESS ONLY TWO FUEL

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ELEMENTS PER YEAR (FROM THE TSING-HUA REACTOR), AND WILL YIELD ONLY 300 GRAMS PU PER YEAR. CHENG NOTED THAT HE HAD TOLD THE AEC ABOUT THIS FACILITY WHEN HE VISITED WASHINGTON LAST DECEMBER.

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