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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:DGBROWN/BLEVIN:BDS
APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL, JR.
PM - MR. MCGUINNESS
S/P - MR. LORD
NSC - MR. GLEYSTEEEN
OES - MR. KRATZER
EA - MR. ARMSTRONG
CIA - MR. TAUBE (DRAFT)
S/S -O:AWOTTO

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
 Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 4/15/04 Exemption: _____

115847

O 040455Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 219733

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, TW

SUBJECT: ROC'S NUCLEAR INTENTIONS

REF: TAIPEI 5965

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

Retain Class'n Change to _____
 Declassify in part and excise as shown
EO 12958, 25X() () () _____
 Declassify After _____
 With concurrence _____ (not)(obtained)
IPS by [Signature] Date 3/24/04

1. EVEN BEFORE RECENT PRESS FLURRY, WE WERE ACTIVELY
CONSIDERING A FORMAL APPROACH TO ROC REGARDING NUCLEAR
REPROCESSING, AND HAVE NOW CONCLUDED THAT A FORMAL
DEMARCHE IS REQUIRED TO CONVEY OUR POSITION THAT WITH
THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE NOT YET OPERATIONAL IAEA
SAFEGUARDED REPROCESSING LABORATORY, NO REPEAT NO
REPROCESSING SHALL TAKE PLACE ON TAIWAN. (WE ARE
REVIEWING OUR PREVIOUS POSITION ON THE SAFEGUARDED
REPROCESSING LABORATORY AND THEREFORE DO NOT WANT AT
THIS POINT TO LEAD THE ROC TO BELIEVE THAT THE US IS
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NECESSARILY PREPARED TO MAKE THE FINDING OF SAFE-
GUARDABILITY REQUISITE TO REPROCESSING OF US FUEL
IN THIS FACILITY.)

2. OUR NEEDS HAVE NOT BEEN SATISFIED BY CCK'S ASSURANCES
GIVEN YOU ON MAY 27, BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S COM-
MENTS TO YOU ON AUGUST 31 OR BY THE GIO'S AUGUST 31
STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT. THE LATTER TWO APPEAR TO
REFRAIN FROM A CATEGORICAL DENIAL THAT ANY REPROCESSING

HAS TAKEN PLACE BY EMPHASIZING THAT THE ROC IS NOT
REPROCESSING FOR WEAPONRY PURPOSES. ADDITIONALLY,
WE DO NOT TAKE COMFORT FROM THE ASSERTIONS THAT ROC
NUCLEAR RESEARCH IS CONDUCTED SOLELY FOR PEACEFUL
PURPOSES, SINCE REPROCESSING AND PLUTONIUM WORK COULD
BE READILY EXPLOITED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. MOREOVER,
AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE FROM EARLIER MESSAGES ON SUB-
JECT, WE DO NOT CREDIT THE ROC'S ARGUMENT THAT ITS
NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM CREATES A REQUIREMENT FOR
REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY.

3. OUR MOST COMPELLING REASON FOR APPROACHING THE
ROC AT THIS STAGE IS CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT IT IS
CONTINUING ITS CLANDESTINE EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE REPROCESS-
ING TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT FROM COMPRIMO NOTWITHSTAND-
ING YOUR MAY 27 APPROACH TO THE PREMIER. IN LIGHT OF
THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY NOW APPARENT WITHIN USG,
CONGRESSIONAL, PRESS AND PUBLIC CIRCLES ON THE PROLI-
FERATION ISSUE WHICH HAS BEEN INTENSIFIED BY RECENT
PRESS STORIES ON ROC NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS, WE WOULD
BE REMISS IF WE FAILED TO MAKE CRYSTAL CLEAR TO THE
ROC OUR FIRM OPPOSITION TO THEIR ACQUIRING A NATIONAL
REPROCESSING FACILITY, AND THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES
WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM THEIR FAILURE TO RESPECT OUR
POSITION.

4. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD SEEK AN EARLY APPOINTMENT
WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND ORALLY PRESENT THE FOL-
LOWING:

--WE WELCOME THE ASSURANCES CONVEYED BY THE PREMIER
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IN MAY AND MORE RECENTLY BY YOURSELF THAT THE

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ROC DOES NOT INTEND TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

-- WE ALSO WELCOME THE COOPERATION YOUR GOVERNMENT GAVE TO THE IAEA INSPECTION TEAM IN JULY. I HOPE THAT YOU SHARE OUR VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING THAT INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE IN IAEA SAFEGUARDS OF THE INER FACILITIES, AS WELL AS TAIWAN'S ENTIRE NUCLEAR PROGRAM ARE MAINTAINED.

-- OUR OPPOSITION TO THE SPREAD OF NATIONAL REPROCESSING FACILITIES IS A CENTRAL ELEMENT IN OUR POLICY FOR PREVENTING THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

-- WE DO NOT ACCEPT THE ARGUMENT THAT A REPROCESSING FACILITY IS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE ROC'S NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM.

--THIS PROMPTED US IN 1973 TO CAUTION YOUR GOVERNMENT AGAINST ACQUIRING A PILOT REPROCESSING PLANT. WE WERE PLEASED TO RECEIVE ASSURANCES THAT YOU WOULD NOT SEEK TO OBTAIN SUCH A PLANT.

--WE ARE VERY CONCERNED TO LEARN FROM EUROPE THAT INER HAS BEEN MAKING INQUIRIES REGARDING ACQUISITION OF REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT. FRANKLY, WE CANNOT RECONCILE THAT INFORMATION WITH PREVIOUS ROC ASSURANCES.

--I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REITERATE CLEARLY THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL REPROCESSING FACILITY WOULD FUNDAMENTALLY JEOPARDIZE THE PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD, INCLUDING TAIWAN'S NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM WHICH IT IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST TO SUSTAIN.

--IN ADDITION, I WISH TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS BY THE US CONGRESS, SUCH AS
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THE SYMINGTON AMENDMENT, TO DENY US MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ANY COUNTRY THAT ACQUIRES A NATIONAL REPROCESSING CAPABILITY. THIS REFLECTS THE GROWING SENSITIVITY OF CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC

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OPINION ON THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND THE IMPLICATIONS SEEM CLEAR TO MY GOVERNMENT -- SHOULD THE ROC OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT SEEK NATIONAL REPROCESSING FACILITIES, THIS WOULD RISK JEOPARDIZING ADDITIONAL HIGHLY IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE US.

--I CANNOT OVEREMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE MY GOVERNMENT PLACES UPON THIS MATTER, AND I HOPE THAT AFTER YOU HAVE REPORTED MY REMARKS TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES, THE GROC WILL REAFFIRM THE ASSURANCES YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN CONCERNING REPROCESSING AND NON-PROLIFERATION. ROBINSON

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