

Current Class: SECRET
Current Handling: EXDIS
Document Number: 1976TAIPEI06884

E44

Page: 1
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 199902647

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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
 Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 4/16/04 Exemption: _____

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1342

S E C R E T TAIPEI 6884

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, TW
SUBJECT: ROC NUCLEAR INTENTIONS; PREMIER CHIANG'S OFFER FOR
AMERICAN RESIDENT EXPERTS

REF: (A) TAIPEI 6864, (B) TAIPEI 6336, (C) TAIPEI 6330,
(D) STATE 229765, (E) TAIPEI 6272

1. ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1976, IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR UNGER, ROC PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO OFFERED TO FINANCE THE RESIDENT ASSIGNMENT OF UP TO THREE AMERICAN EXPERTS WITH FULL ACCESS TO ALL ROC NUCLEAR FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES (SEE REFTTEL E). THIS OFFER WAS FORMALLY PRESENTED IN THE GROC NOTE OF SEPTEMBER 16 (SEE REFTTEL C). AGAIN, ON OCTOBER 9TH IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION FOLLOWING THE CALL OF U.S. CONGRESSMAN WILSON, PREMIER CHIANG REPEATED THE OFFER TO AMBASSADOR UNGER AND EXPANDED THE NUMBER OF EXPERTS INVITED TO FIVE OR MORE (SEE REFTTEL A).

2. WE BELIEVE THAT THE ASSIGNMENT OF "RESIDENT" U.S. EXPERTS MAY NOT BE DESIRABLE AT THIS TIME, PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AN INDICATION OF U.S. DISSATISFACTION WITH IAEA SAFEGUARDS INSPECTIONS. ALSO, RESIDENT EXPERTS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE HOSPITALITY OF THEIR CHINESE HOSTS, PERHAPS REDUCING THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AS INSPECTORS. FINALLY, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT ANY USG ORGANIZATION IS CURRENTLY IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE UP TO THREE OR MORE FULL-TIME RESIDENT EXPERTS TO MOVE, WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND EFFECTS, TO THE ROC.

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3. NONETHELESS, THE PREMIER'S OFFER PROVIDES US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY THAT SHOULD NOT BE LOST. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO RESPOND TO THE GROC THAT THE OFFER OF ACCESS TO ANY AND ALL GROC FACILITIES IN ANY WAY RELATED TO THEIR NUCLEAR PROGRAMS IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED AND THAT WE BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE OCCASIONS ON WHICH WE WILL WISH TO AVAIL OURSELVES OF THIS OFFER. WE COULD THEN DESIGNATE AN INTER-AGENCY TEAM OF U.S. EXPERTS THAT COULD, WHEN WE CONSIDER IT DESIRABLE, MAKE PERIODIC INSPECTIONS OF ROC NUCLEAR FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES. THE USE OF SUCH A TEAM WOULD PROVIDE THE USG WITH GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN INSPECTION, BUT WOULD NOT TIE UP U.S. PERSONNEL ON A FULL-TIME BASIS. A U.S. TEAM OF INSPECTORS COULD BE JUSTIFIED ON THE BASIS OF THE LARGE U.S. INVESTMENT IN THE ROC NUCLEAR FIELD, WITHOUT DETRACTING FROM THE ROLE OF IAEA INSPECTORS. FINALLY, AN INTER-AGENCY U.S. TEAM OF INSPECTORS COULD BE DIRECTED IN THEIR INSPECTIONS THROUGH CLASSIFIED BRIEFINGS BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND AT THE EMBASSY IN TAIPEI.

4. DEPARTMENT'
INSTRUCTIONS TO REPLY TO THE ROC IN THIS VEIN
WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
UNGER

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