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ACTION

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DISTR

J4(09) J5(02) SAGA(01) J3;NMCC;(02) SECDEF(07) SECDEF:
ASD:ISA(10) ATSD:AE(01) ASD:PA&E(01) DIA: (3) DIA(15) NMIC
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DE RUQMHR #9154 2641305
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
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PP RUEHC
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ZNY CCCCC ZZH

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 6/20/8 Exemption Released in SAS

P R 211247Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 494
INFO RHEGWDC/USDOE WAHSDC

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
 Retain Class'n Change to
 Declassify in part and excise as shown
EO 12958, 25X () () ()
 Declassify After (not/achieved)
 With comments
IPS by RJ Gibson Date 6/25/88

BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 09154

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, ENRG, IR
SUBJ: NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES IN IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 08768

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT DR. ETEMAD, PRESIDENT, ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION OF IRAN, HAS TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION AND THAT IT WILL BE ACCEPTED.
2. SOURCES OUTSIDE OF AEOI INDICATE THAT OTHER RESIGNATIONS WOULD LEKELY FOLLOW ETEMAD'S; AMONG NAMES MENTIONED ARE RAFIZADEH, V.P. FOR FUEL CYCLE; MANZOOR, V.O. FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES, AND FARZIN, DIRECTOR OF SAFETY.
3. DR. AHMAD SOTOODEHNNIA, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AT MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND FORMER ETEMAD PROTEGE, APPEARS ALSO TO BE CANDIDATE FOR RESIGNATION, ACCORDING TO NON-GOVERNMENT SOURCE. AT THE SAME TIME, DR. SOTOODEHNNIA MENTIONED TO AMBASSADOR AND SCIATT IN

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OBLIQUE MANNER, THAT WHEN MANAGEMENT DECISIONS ARE MADE CONCERNING FATE OF AEOI, DR. SOTOODEHNIA, MAY HAVE INCREASED INVOLVEMENT, WHILE SOTOODEHNIA AFFIRMS THAT HE WOULD NOT BE CHOSEN AS A CANDIDATE FOR NEW PRESIDENT OF AEOI, HE SEES THE POSSIBILITY THAT AEOI OR PORTIONS THEREOF COULD BE TRANSFERRED AS WAS THE PROJECT ORGANIZATION NOW UNDER HIS DIRECTION, TO THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY, THEREBY BROADENING HIS OWN SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, HE CONCEDES ALSO THAT HE COULD BE "OUT". DR. SOTOODEHNIA'S IMMEDIATE ASPIRATION APPEARS TO BE TO COMPLETE THE WORK STARTED AT BUSHEHR AND KARUN, REGARDLESS OF FUTURE DECISIONS CONCERNING ADDITIONAL NUCLEAR PLANTS. (COMMENT: EMBASSY WISHES TO EMPHASIZE CONJECTURAL NATURE OF THIS INFORMATION AND THAT DR. ETEMAD'S NAME IS THE ONLY ONE ACCORDED OFFICIAL RECOGNITION AT THIS TIME.)

4. "ACROSS THE BOARD REASSESSMENT" OF GOVERNMENT (CAPITAL INVESTMENT) PRIORITIES IS UNDERWAY AND SUCH REASSESSMENT, COUPLED WITH OPEN CRITICISM OF AEOI, HAS ESSENTIALLY PARALYZED THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN BOTH AEOI AND MINISTRY OF ENERGY ON MATTERS NUCLEAR.

5. IN CONVERSATION 21 SEPTEMBER WITH WESTINGHOUSE'S BHUTANI (PROTECT), SCIATT LEARNED SUBSTANCE OF WESTINGHOUSE MEETING WITH MINISTER MAHD MINA ON WEDNESDAY MORNING 20 SEPTEMBER, TO THE BEST OF THE MINISTER'S KNOWLEDGE, TOTAL ENERGY GROWTH PLANS FOR IRAN REMAIN UNCHANGED, MINISTER SPECULATES THAT MAJOR REDUCTION IN PROJECTED ENERGY GROWTH COULD RESULT, IF PARLIAMENT TOGETHER WITH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, DECIDED TO CHANGE FUTURE DIRECTION AND PACE OF IRAN'S INDUSTRIALIZATION PLAN; HOWEVER, THIS SEEMS UNLIKELY AT PRESENT. MINISTER MAHD MINA INDICATED THAT A PLAN FOR NON-NUCLEAR GROWTH SHOULD BE PREPARED WITHIN THE NEXT THREE TO FOUR WEEKS, WITH RESPECT TO NUCLEAR ENERGY PLANS, MINISTER INDICATED TO WESTINGHOUSE THAT SITUATION IS NOT SO DIFFERENT FROM THAT IN THE U.S.; NAMELY THAT THE OPPONENTS OF NUCLEAR POWER SUCH AS ENVIRONMENTALISTS ARE ALLOWED TO AND ARE EXPRESSING THEIR DISAGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO MAJOR COMMITMENT TO NUCLEAR POWER IN IRAN. DR. SOTOODEHNIA, THE MINISTER AND OTHERS INVOLVED ACTIVELY

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IN THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM WILL ARGUE THE ADVOCATE POSITION AND ARE EXPECTED, IN THE MINISTER'S JUDGEMENT, TO WIN THE ARGUMENT FAVORING NUCLEAR POWER. THEY ARE OBLIGED TO ADDRESS IN NEAR TERM, THE REASSESSMENT PROGRAM WHICH IS UNDERWAY AS PART OF DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. NUCLEAR ACTIVITY WITH EXCEPTION OF THE FOUR UNITS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION, HAS COME TO A HALT. THE MINISTER STATED THAT DR. ETEMAD WILL BE REPLACED SOON. HE INDICATED INCREASED ROLE BY MINISTER OF ENERGY IS BILATERAL GOVERNMENT DISCUSSIONS FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION. HE INDICATED FURTHER THAT U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM IS STILL BEING SOUGHT AND THAT THE BILATERAL WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE SCRAPPED. HE ASCRIBED LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO YET UNKNOWN DETERMINATION OF WHO WILL SIGN THE BILATERAL ON BEHALF OF GOI.

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