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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216584

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PK, CH

SUBJECT: PRC ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN IN REPROCESSING

REF: ISLAMABAD 8222

1. DEPARTMENT FOUND AMBASSADOR'S FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION WITH
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 09 MAR 2007 200502061

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PRC AMBASSADOR ON POSSIBILITY OF PRC REPLACING FRENCH AS SUPPLIER OF REPROCESSING PLANT MOST HELPFUL. PRC ASSURANCES THAT CHINESE HAVE NO INTENTION OF AIDING PAKISTANIS IN REPROCESSING SEEM CREDIBLE SINCE IT WOULD NOT SEEM TO SERVE PRC INTERESTS TO UNDERCUT US AND FRENCH-NUCLEAR POLICY AT THIS TIME.

2. AS A TECHNICAL MATTER, HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT CHINESE PRESUMABLY COULD PROVIDE PAKISTAN WITH A REPROCESSING FACILITY SUITABLE FOR EXTRACTION OF PLUTONIUM FROM THE SPENT FUEL OF THE KARACHI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (KANUPP) PARTICULARLY IF THE FUEL WERE SUITABLY MODIFIED. SUCH A FACILITY COULD BE LESS SOPHISTICATED AND VERSATILE THAN THE PROPOSED FRENCH PLANT AND THUS EASIER TO CONSTRUCT.

3. DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO BE INTERESTED IN ANY INDICATION OF ANY FOREIGN TECHNICAL OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR A REPROCESSING PROJECT IN PAKISTAN. CHRISTOPHER

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