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E.O. 11652: XGDS-L
TAGS: TECH, HNUC, PARM, FR, PK, PFOR
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON FRENCH-PAKISTANI REPROCESSING SITUATION

REF: STATE 237312

1. WE ASKED JACOMET ABOUT LE POINT STORY (REFTEL) THAT FRENCH FIRM ROBATEL HAD RECEIVED A LICENSE TO EXPORT CENTRIFUGES FOR THE PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT. JACOMET CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT ANY SUCH LICENSE HAD BEEN ISSUED AND THAT ANY FURTHER SHIPMENTS ARE BEING MADE. HE ASSURED US ONCE AGAIN THAT FRENCH DECISION TO TERMINATE THE CONTRACT WITH PAKISTAN WAS FINAL. HE ATTRIBUTED LE POINT STORY TO THE LACK OF SERIOUSNESS OF THE FRENCH PRESS AND TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO UNDERMINE GISCARD'S DECISION NOT TO PROCEED. IN VIEW OF HIS COMPLETE DENIAL, WE THOUGHT IT INAPPROPRIATE TO QUESTION HIM ON THE TECHNICAL DETAILS NOTED IN THE REFTEL.

2. JACOMET SAID THAT THE FRENCH EXPECT TO RECALL THE TWO FRENCH TECHNICIANS STILL ON DUTY AT THE PLANT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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3. IN DISCUSSING THE GOF'S INABILITY TO GIVE US FORMAL ASSURANCES THAT THE DEAL IS OFF, JACOMET SAID THAT, IF THE USG FELT ASSURANCES ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, IT MIGHT CONSIDER A DEMARCHE AT A HIGHER LEVEL (I.E. WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OR SECRETARY GENERAL SOUTOU). HE SEEMED TO BE SAYING THAT, IN EXTREMIS, THE GOF MIGHT BE WILLING TO CHANGE ITS MIND. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT, IF INITIAL CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS INDICATE THAT ASSURANCES WILL BE NECESSARY, THOUGHT BE GIVEN TO A HIGH-LEVEL DEMARCHE HERE.

4. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO ISLAMABAD.
GAMMON

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