

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

PM-03 DODE-00 OES-02 ACDA-10 OMB-01 PRS-01 USIA-01

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:RTMCMAHAN,JR.:CED/MFR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 266288

LIMDIS NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, SOPN, CH, US

SUBJECT: PRC NUCLEAR FALLOUT

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. OCTOBER 6 THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS SPOKESMAN, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION CONCERNING FALLOUT FROM THE CHINESE NUCLEAR TEST OF SEPTEMBER 26, SAID: "THE U.S. HAS LONG OPPOSED THE ATMOSPHERIC TESTING OF NUCLEAR DEVICES. OUR POSITION IS WELL KNOWN TO EVERYONE. I WILL SIMPLY SAY THAT WE WILL MAKE OUR POSITION CLEAR ONCE AGAIN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA."

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2. ON OCTOBER 15 EA/PRCM DEPUTY DIRECTOR ROY READ THE
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FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO PRCLO FIRST SECRETARY HSU SHIN HSI:

"I AM SURE YOU HAVE NOTICED THAT THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY ABOUT INCREASED LEVELS OF RADIATION IN THE USA AFTER YOUR RECENT NUCLEAR TEST. I HAVE

BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION THAT THIS HAS STIMULATED PUBLIC CONCERN. OF COURSE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD ATMOSPHERIC TESTING OF NUCLEAR DEVICES."

3. HSU REPLIED: "I ASSUME THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE CHINESE POSITION ON THIS MATTER: THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION CANNOT EXPECT TO CONDUCT THEIR OWN ATMOSPHERIC NUCLEAR TESTING PROGRAMS AND THEN DENY OTHER COUNTRIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO LIKEWISE."

4. AFTER HU RETURNED TO THE LIAISON OFFICE HE CALLED MR. ROY BY TELEPHONE AND SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "THE US SIDE HAS NO CREDENTIALS TO RAISE THIS QUESTION. THERE IS NO SUCH REASON UNDER HEAVEN THAT ONLY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES ARE ALLOWED TO CONDUCT NUCLEAR TESTS AND AFTER THEY HAVE CONDUCTED NUCLEAR TESTS THEY DO NOT ALLOW OTHERS TO DO SO. HSU ASKED THAT HIS STATEMENT BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S "LEADERSHIP."

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5. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN:

Q: HAS THE DEPARTMENT PROTESTED TO THE CHINESE THEIR ATMOSPHERIC NUCLEAR TEST OF SEPTEMBER 26?

A: OUR CONCERN OVER THIS MATTER HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CHINESE.

Q: WHEN WAS THIS DONE?

A: ON OCTOBER 15.

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Q: WHY DID YOU WAIT SO LONG?

A: I DO NOT CONSIDER THIS AN UNDUE DELAY.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHO MADE THE APPROACH? AT WHAT LEVEL WAS IT HANDLED?

A: IT WAS HANDLED AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN THE

DEPARTMENT.

Q: DO YOU MEAN A PRCLO REPRESENTATIVE WAS CALLED IN FOR THIS PURPOSE?

A: LET ME SAY THAT A DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TOOK UP THE QUESTION WITH A PRCLO OFFICER.

Q: DID WE ACTUALLY PROTEST THE CHINESE NUCLEAR TEST?

A: I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO MY FIRST STATEMENT ON THIS MATTER.

Q: DO WE PLAN ANY FURTHER ACTIONS TO MAKE CLEAR OUR CONCERN TO THE CHINESE IN THE UN OR ELSEWHERE?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD ON THAT.

Q: WHAT WAS THE CHINESE REACTION?

A: I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT.

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