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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 332

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
 Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
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LIMDIS
FOR BROWN, EA/ROC

FOR BENGELSDORF, OES/ET

FOR BORIGHT, ACDA

FOR SIEVERING, ERDA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, TW
SUBJECT: US NUCLEAR TEAM VISIT TO ROC - CALLS

REF: TAIPEI 333

1. U.S. NUCLEAR TEAM TODAY MADE SEPARATE CALLS ON VICE FOREIGN MINISTER CHIEN FU, DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER ADMIRAL FENG CHI-TSUNG, MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SUN YUN-HSUAN, ATOMIC ENERGY CHAIRMAN CHIEN SZU-LIANG, CHAIRMAN NATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL HSU HSIEN-HSIU.

2. LEVIN MADE DETAILED PRESENTATION BASED ON TALKIING POINTS PROVIDED SEPTEL. IN MEETING WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER CHIEN, LEVIN PLACED SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE FACT THAT U.S. POLICY WITH REGARD TO NUCLEAR MATTERS HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY STRINGENT IN CONFIDENTIAL

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RECENT YEARS. CERTAIN RESEARCH ACTIVITIES SUCH AS REPROCESSING AND MIXED OXIDE FUEL FABRICATION WHICH PREVIOUSLY MAY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AN UNOBJECTIONABLE PART OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE WERE

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NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE THEY INVOLVED WEAPONS-USABLE MATERIALS. BECAUSE THE PROLIFERATION RISKS WERE OVERRIDING, WE COULD NO LONGER ACCEPT ANY ARGUMENTS INVOLVING ECONOMIC BENEFITS, RESOURCE SAVINGS, ETC. LEVIN WENT ON TO EMPHASIZE THAT ADHERENCE TO THE NPT AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS WERE NOT ABSOLUTE ASSURANCES AGAINST PROLIFERATION IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT A SOVEREIGN NATION MIGHT AT SOME TIME ABROGATE ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THESE ARRANGEMENTS.

3. CHIEN RESPONDED BY REITERATING ROC PUBLIC POSITION THAT ITS NUCLEAR R&D WAS ONLY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. AS EVIDENCE ROC'S GOOD FAITH IT IS DISMANTLING ITS REPROCESSING LABORATORY. ROC HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO IAEA SAFEGUARDS AND THE NPT. ITS RECORD WITH REGARD TO THESE MATTERS IS "PERFECT".

4. CHIEN CLAIMED TO HAVE SEENA PRESS REPORT THAT U.S. WOULD ACQUIESCE IN WEST GERMAN AND FRENCH SALES OF REPROCESSING FACILITIES TO BRAZIL AND PAKISTAN RESPECTIVELY. HE ASKED WHETHER THE U.S. WAS APPLYING A "DOUBLE STANDARD" WITH REGARD TO ITS POLICY OF OPPOSING ACQUISITION OF REPROCESSING FACILITIES. LEVIN REPLIED THAT OUR POLICY WAS GLOBAL, AND THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE "UNSTINTING" IN ITS EFFORTS TO PREVENT PROLIFERATION OF SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY TO BRAZIL AND PAKISTAN.

5. CHIEN ASKED IF THE GROC WAS COOPERATIVE WITH REGARD TO U.S.'S NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES, WOULD ITS NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY BE ASSURED. LEVIN STATED THAT IN THAT EVENT, THE U.S. WOULD ADOPT A FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON FUEL SUPPLY.

6. CHIEN ASKED, OUT OF "CURIOSITY", WHAT THE PENALTIES WOULD BE IN THE EVENT A NATION DID NOT FOLLOW U.S. NON-PROLIFERATION GUIDELINES. LEVIN REPLIED THAT THE

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SANCTIONS WOULD NOT BE CONFINED TO NUCLEAR MATTERS BUT WOULD ALSO AFFECT A WIDE RANGE OF RELATIONS, INCLUDING MILITARY COOPERATION.

7. IN MEETING WITH ADMIRAL FENG, LEVIN STRESSED THAT THE U.S. WOULD REGARD ANY RESEARCH INVOLVING WEAPONS-USABLE MATERIALS AS A SERIOUS PROLIFERATION RISK AND THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO ACCEPT ARGUMENTS THAT SUCH RESEARCH WAS INTENDED SOLELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. LEVIN DWELT ON THE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES THAT QUESTIONABLE ROC NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES WOULD HAVE ON WEAPONS SUPPLY AND CITED THE SYMINGTON AMENDMENT AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE

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INCREASINGLY RESTRICTIVE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD PROLIFERATION RISKS.

8. COMMENT: IN THESE MEETINGS AND IN MEETING WITH SUN, LEVIN EXPLICITLY AND FORCEFULLY MADE CLEAR THAT OUR CONCERN WENT BEYOND REPROCESSING AND THAT IN OUR VIEW ANY ROC RESEARCH INVOLVING THE USE OF WEAPONS-USABLE MATERIAL COULD NO LONGER BE JUSTIFIED SOLELY ON THE GROUNDS OF PEACEFUL APPLICATION. HE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT CONTINUED U.S. NUCLEAR COOPERATION RESTED ON THE ROC AVOIDING ANY MISUNDERSTANDING IN THIS REGARD. BOTH VICE MINISTER CHIEN AND MINISTER SUN GAVE IMPRESSION THAT THEY BELIEVED IT WOULD BE FOLLY FOR ROC TO ENDANGER ITS NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM BY CONDUCTING NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES OF QUESTIONABLE NATURE. WE WERE PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY CHIEN'S QUESTION ABOUT PENALTIES THAT WOULD RESULT FROM DEFIANCE OF U.S. NUCLEAR POLICIES. IT SEEMED AS IF HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SEEKING AMMUNITION-- WHICH WE SUPPLIED--TO USE WITHIN ROC POLICY COUNSELS. ADMIRAL FENG, ON THE OTHER HAND, LIMITED HIS COMMENTS TO PROTESTATION OF ROC FEALTY TO ITS PUBLIC POSITION ON NUCLEAR MATTERS. HOWEVER, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, HE DID REFER TO THE DIFFICULTY IN MAKING A CLEAR DEMARCATION BETWEEN NUCLEAR RESEARCH FOR PEACEFUL AND WEAPONS PURPOSES.

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