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Dept of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
 Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 9/27/04 Exemption _____

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 049428

NODIS
FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT TAIPEI 1214 ACTION SECSTATE 05 MAR 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T TAIPEI 1214

NODIS

DEPT FOR EA/GLEYSTEN, EA/ROC FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, TW
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

REF: TAIPEI 1050

1. AT PRIVATE LUNCHEON MARCH 3, I RAISED THE SUBJECT OF
NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION WITH MINISTER CHOU SHU-K'AI BY REMARKING
ON THE VERY STROV EMPHASIS BEING PLACED BY THE NEW CARTER
ADMINISTRATION ON THIS ISSUE. I TOLD CHOU THAT, AS A RESULT,
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U.S. RESTRICTIONS BOTH DOMESTIC AND THOSE WHICH AFFECT PROGRAMS
ABROAD ARE BEING CONSIDERABLY TIGHTENED AND ACTIVITIES WHICH WE HAD
TENDED TO REGARD AS ACCEPTABLE HAVE IN SOME CASES BEEN PUT ON

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THE PROHIBITED LIST.

2. CHOU MENTIONED THE MELINDA LIU ARTICLE (WASHINGTON POST, FEB 27) IN A WAY WHICH DID NOT SUGGEST THAT IT HAD CAUSED ANY GREAT CONCERN TO THE ROC. HE COULD OFFER NO EXPLANATION TO HER HAVING FAILED TO MENTION THE VISIT OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR TEAM, UNLESS IT WAS THAT SHE SIMPLY HAD NOT HEARD OF IT BECAUSE OF THE PAUCITY OF PUBLICITY. I SAID THAT THIS RECALLED TO MIND THE STATEMENTS WHICH THE PREMIER HAD MADE ON THIS SUBJECT ABOUT THE ROC HAVING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY EVEN THOUGH IT DOES NOT INTEND TO PRODUCE WEAPONS. IN KEEPING WITH THE NEW SITUATION, I SAID IT SEEMED TO ME IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE EMPHASIS TO BE ON THE LATTER POINT AND IT COULD BE DAMAGING TO THE POSITION OF THE ROC TO BE PROCLAIMING PUBLICLY ITS POSSESSION OF A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY, OR FOR THAT MATTER, ITS SEEKING IN FACT TO HAVE SUCH A CAPABILITY. CHOU FELL IN WITH THIS SUGGESTION AND CALLED ATTENTION TO THE QUOTE IN THE MELINDA LIU ARTICLE IN WHICH ONE TAIWANESE OFFICIAL IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, "WHAT GOOD IS IT IF WE HAVE TEN BOMBS WHEN THE AGGRESSOR HAS 100?" I SAID I THOROUGHLY AGREED THAT POSSESSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WAS POINTLESS FOR TAIWAN AND THAT THE PREMIER MIGHT WELL, IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEW WORLD-WIDE ASSESSMENT OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION DANGERS, PLACE HIMSELF IN THE FOREFRONT OF THOSE WHO RECOGNIZE THESE DANGERS AND THE KINDS OF TOTAL RESTRICTIONS WHICH WERE NOW REQUIRED; THIS WOULD BE MUCH MORE TO THE POINT THAN CONTINUED STRESSING OF THE ROC POSSESSING A WEAPONS CAPABILITY. CHOU CONCURRED.
UNGER UNQUOTE.
CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

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