



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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EA/ROK: MR. O'DONOHUE
S/S - MR. MOFFAT

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, KS, JA, FR

SUBJECT: JAPANESE EMBASSY APPROACH ON ROK NUCLEAR
REPROCESSING FACILITY

1. JAPANESE EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR DONOWAKI
CALLED ON PM DEPUTY DIRECTOR GOODBY NOVEMBER 25 TO DIS-
CUSS ROK NUCLEAR REPROCESSING FACILITY. MEETING WAS AT
DONOWAKI'S REQUEST. ROK COUNTRY DIRECTOR O'DONOHUE AND
SECOND SECRETARY YAMAZAKI ALSO ATTENDED.

2. DONOWAKI SAID GOJ HAD LIMITED INFORMATION FROM PRESS
AND OTHER SOURCES ABOUT PLANNED ROK ACQUISITION OF
REPROCESSING FACILITY. HE ASKED FOR BACKGROUND AND USG
VIEWS TOWARD PROJECT.

3. GOODBY DREW ON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS IN RESPONSE
TO DONOWAKI'S REQUEST:
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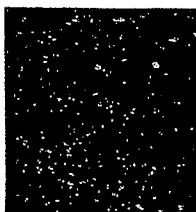
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A. SUBJECT OF ROK REPROCESSING FACILITY IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE AND WE ASK GOJ TO TREAT IT CONFIDENTIALLY AND WITH SAME DEGREE OF PROTECTION AS THAT ACCORDED TO NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS DISCUSSIONS.

B. AS JAPAN IS AWARE, ROKG IS NEGOTIATING TO PURCHASE FROM FRANCE A PILOT NUCLEAR REPROCESSING FACILITY.

C. US POSITION ON QUESTION OF TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT IS WELL KNOWN. SECRETARY IN HIS SEPTEMBER 22 SPEECH TO UNGA EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN OVER SPREAD OF NUCLEAR REPROCESSING FACILITIES UNDER NATIONAL CONTROL, AND OUR STRONG DESIRE TO ENCOURAGE MULTINATIONAL REGIONAL REPROCESSING INSTEAD. WE WELCOME FACT THAT THIS POSITION HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN THE NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY GUIDELINES RECENTLY AGREED TO IN LONDON.

D. ROK HAS OF COURSE SIGNED AND RATIFIED NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, AND, IN ADDITION, THIS FACILITY OR ANY FACILITY OF THE SAME TYPE CONSTRUCTED IN KOREA WOULD BE SUBJECT TO FULL IAEA SAFEGUARDS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH TRILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE AND THE IAEA.

E. ROK DESIRE TO OBTAIN A PILOT REPROCESSING FACILITY SHOULD BE SEEN AT LEAST PARTIALLY AGAINST BACKGROUND OF ITS AMBITIOUS PEACEFUL NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM, AS AN EFFORT TO SOLVE ITS LONG-TERM ENERGY NEEDS. ROK HAS EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN A REGIONAL MULTINATIONAL NUCLEAR CENTER, AS WELL AS READINESS TO LOCATE SUCH A SITE IN KOREA. IT WISHES TO DEVELOP ITS OWN NATIONAL FUEL CYCLE TECHNOLOGY AS A STEP TOWARDS THIS END, AND ALSO TO HELP REDUCE FOREIGN EXCHANGE COSTS OF ITS NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM. KOREANS HAVE DESCRIBED FRENCH FACILITY AS NECESSARY TO LEARN THE TECHNICAL SKILLS WHICH WOULD PERMIT ROK BOTH TO DEVELOP ITS NATIONAL PROGRAM AND TO PARTICIPATE MORE EFFECTIVELY IN A COMMERCIAL REGIONAL VENTURE.

F. US HAS SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL DOUBTS

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ABOUT KOREAN ACQUISITION OF THIS PILOT REPROCESSING FACILITY. EVEN THE ROK'S AMBITIOUS NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM WOULD NOT JUSTIFY A NATIONAL REPROCESSING EFFORT. IN FACT, OUR ECONOMIC ANALYSIS INDICATES THAT ROK WOULD NOT REALIZE FOREIGN EXCHANGE SAVINGS FROM SUCH AN EFFORT. MOREOVER, OUR ANALYSIS UNDERLINES VIRTUAL IRRELEVANCE OF A PILOT FACILITY FOR EVENTUAL COMMERCIAL-SCALE ENDEAVORS. JAPAN AND US HAVE BOTH EXPERIENCED THE EXTRAORDINARY TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES OF UNDERTAKING A COMMERCIAL REPROCESSING OPERATION.

G. IN ADDITION, KOREA IS A PARTICULARLY POLITICALLY SENSITIVE AREA. ALTHOUGH THIS IS SMALL PILOT FACILITY, NOT A COMMERCIAL SCALE PLANT, NEVERTHELESS AMOUNT OF PLUTONIUM WHICH COULD BE PRODUCED BY SUCH A FACILITY

COULD BE SIGNIFICANT FOR WEAPONS PURPOSES IF FACILITY RAN CONSTANTLY AND IF IAEA SAFEGUARDS WERE TERMINATED FOR ANY REASON. (IN THIS CONTEXT, GOODBY STRESSED THAT WE DO RECOGNIZE THAT PILOT FACILITY WOULD BE UNDER STRINGENT SAFEGUARDS.)

H. BECAUSE OF OUR BROAD POLICY CONCERNS, WE HAVE FELT IT NECESSARY TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN TO BOTH FRANCE AND ROKG AND TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM.

I. JAPAN SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ROKG IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE JAPANESE REPROCESSING FACILITY AND HAS INDICATED ITS BELIEF THAT US OPPOSITION TO SPREAD OF NATIONAL REPROCESSING FACILITIES IN KOREA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IS DISCRIMINATORY. THIS HIGHLIGHTS OUR MUTUAL INTEREST WITH JAPAN IN SUPPORTING A MULTINATIONAL, REGIONAL ALTERNATIVE.

J. EMBASSY TOKYO IS CURRENTLY PURSUING WITH GOJ THE POSSIBILITY OF SERIOUS BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS OF A MULTI-NATIONAL NUCLEAR CENTER IN EAST ASIA, IN WHICH OUR TWO COUNTRIES COULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE. THIS OBVIOUSLY HAS BEARING ON PROSPECTS FOR CONTAINING NATIONAL REPROCESSING FACILITIES IN KOREA AND ELSEWHERE. WE RECOGNIZE INTEREST THAT SEVERAL STATES HAVE IN ACQUIRING A

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REPROCESSING CAPABILITY BUT HAVE FELT THAT THIS SHOULD BE CHanneled IN MULTINATIONAL FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT NON-PROLIFERATION INTERESTS. WHAT WE DISCUSS BILATERALLY WOULD OF COURSE COMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDY BEING CONDUCTED BY IAEA, AND WE WELCOME GOJ'S SUPPORT OF THAT EFFORT.

3. IN FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS, DONOWAKI ASKED IF US HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY ROK/FRENCH DEAL, AND ASKED IF FRENCH SAFEGUARDS ARRANGEMENTS WERE SATISFACTORY. O'DONOHUE NOTED THAT US DOES NOT EXPORT REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY. GIVEN HISTORY OF ROK INTEREST IN REPROCESSING PLANT APPROACH TO FRANCE WAS THUS UNDERSTANDABLE. AS FOR SAFEGUARDS, GOODBY SAID FRENCH HAVE BEEN COOPERATIVE IN NUCLEAR SUPPLIER'S MEETINGS AND TRILATERAL ROK/FRENCE/IAEA SAFEGUARDS WOULD APPLY TO FACILITY IF IT ESTABLISHED. DONOWAKI ASKED IF ROK APPROACH TO FRANCE FOR FACILITY CAME AFTER FALL OF VIETNAM. O'DONOHUE STRESSED THAT DISCUSSIONS ON REPROCESSING FACILITY BEGAN LONG BEFORE COLLAPSE OF VIETNAM.

4. DONOWAKI SAID THAT IF THERE WAS REAL POSSIBILITY OF ROK DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS THIS WOULD POSE SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR JAPAN. HE ASKED HOW LONG US DISCUSSIONS WITH ROK MIGHT CONTINUE. GOODBY SAID DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN UNDERWAY FOR SOME TIME AND THAT THEY WERE STILL CONTINUING. HE SAID ROK INTEREST IN NATIONAL REPROCESSING PLANT POINTS UP NEED FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US AND JAPAN ON SUBJECT OF MULTINATIONAL REGIONAL REPROCESSING CENTERS.

5. COMMENT: AS FAR AS DEPARTMENT AWARE THIS IS FIRST TIME JAPAN HAS APPROACHED US ON PLANNED ROK FACILITY. MEETING WAS LOW KEY AND WE ASSUME DONOWAKI'S VISIT PROMPTED BY RECENT EDITORIALS IN NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST CRITICIZING FRENCH DEAL. KISSINGER

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