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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PARM, MNUC, KS

SUBJECT: ROK NUCLEAR REPROCESSING

REF: (A) STATE 299089; (B) SEOUL 9813; (C) SEQU 9833;  
(D) STATE 226011, (E) SEOUL 9874

1. APPRECIATE CONSIDERATIONS REF B. AS YOU KNOW, THRUST  
OF OUR OBJECTIONS TO REPROCESSING PLANT HAVE BEEN BASED ON  
OUR POLITICAL AND SECURITY CONCERNS, WHICH YOU SHOULD  
EMPHASIZE IN YOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PARK.

2. IN ADDITION, YOU MAY POINT OUT POSITIVE ASPECTS OF U.S.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES E LAHIGUERA  
DATE/CASE ID: 20 MAY 2005 200403745

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NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH ROK IN NON-SENSITIVE AREAS, AS DESCRIBED IN REF A, REF D (PARA 6) AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONS, IN EVENT CANCELLATION OF REPROCESSING CONTRACT. IN SO DOING, YOU SHOULD:

-- WELCOME INTEREST EXPRESSED BY ROKG IN EXPANDED COOPERATION IN NON-SENSITIVE NUCLEAR AREAS IN EVENT ROKG CANCELS REPROCESSING FACILITY;

-- EMPHASIZE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF U.S. OFFER IN EVENT OF CANCELLATION, INCLUDING

(A) WILLINGNESS TO REQUEST CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF EXIM CREDITS FOR KORI-II;

(B) READINESS TO ENCOURAGE ADDITIONAL SALES OF NUCLEAR REACTORS AND REACTOR FUEL;

(C) WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL FUEL FABRICATION FACILITIES IN KOREA; AND

(D) SUPPORT OF ROK PARTICIPATION IN A POSSIBLE FUTURE MULTINATIONAL REPROCESSING PLANT TO BE LOCATED AT SUITABLE SITE IN FAR EAST;

-- INDICATE THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DETAILED DISCUSSION OF FOREGOING AS WELL AS OTHER POSSIBLE ROK CIVIL NUCLEAR NEEDS IF AND WHEN PRESIDENT DECIDES TO CANCEL REPROCESSING FACILITY. FYI; HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL TO AVOID ANY IMPLICATION THAT USG CAN MAKE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS WITH RESPECT TO ROK NUCLEAR PROGRAM.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD CONCUR IN FOLLOWING REFORMULATIONS OF ITEMS A AND B PROPOSED IN REF B, PARA 4:

-- A. REITERATION OF INITIAL RESPONSE TO YI, NAMELY THAT MANY OF THE QUESTIONS RAISED REQUIRE EXTENDED CONSIDERATION AND CONSULTATION WHICH U.S. IS PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE PROMPTLY ON BASIS ROKG DECISION TO CANCEL REPROCESSING PLANT;

-- B. U.S. PREPARED TO ACTIVELY EXPLORE EXPANDED COOPERA-

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TION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER AND INDUSTRY IN KOREA WITH RECOGNITION THAT THERE ARE OTHER THIRD COUNTRY SUPPLIERS WHO CAN ALSO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE TO THIS END.

4. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD NOT USE PROPOSED ITEM C (REF B, PARA 4). WE DO NOT WISH TO JOIN ISSUE OF ROK ACCESS TO REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY AT THIS TIME. IF QUESTION SHOULD NEVERTHELESS ARISE, YOU MAY SAY THAT U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER TRAINING POSSIBILITIES IN CONTEXT OF DEVELOPMENT OF MULTINATIONAL REPROCESSING FACILITY IN REGION. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT ASSURE REPROCESSING SERVICES AT THIS TIME, IN VIEW OF UNAVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES IN U.S., FACT THAT USG WILL HAVE NO DIRECT CONTROL OVER PRIVATELY OPERATED FACILITIES IF AND WHEN THESE ARE COMPLETED, AND UNCERTAINTY OF FUTURE IMPORT LICENSING OF FOREIGN SPENT FUEL BY NRC.

5. YOU SHOULD CAREFULLY NOTE CAVEATS IN REF A, PARTICULARLY NEED FOR FIRM AGREEMENT TO CANCEL FACILITY BEFORE PURSUING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON ROK-US COOPERATION IN CIVIL NUCLEAR MATTERS AND IMPORTANCE OF RESPECTING LEGITIMATE FRENCH INTERESTS IN NON-SENSITIVE NUCLEAR COOPERATION.

6. RE REF C, PARA 4, DEPARTMENT DESIRES TO MAINTAIN FOCUS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH FRENCH IN WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO YOUR RESPONDING IN BROAD, GENERAL TERMS TO FUTURE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION BY TESSIER DUCROS, WHO WE RECOGNIZE IS TAKING HELPFUL POSITION ON REPROCESSING ISSUE. WE HAVE NOT BRIEFED FRENCH ON ANY DETAILS OF BASIS OF OUR ASSESSMENT OF ROK INTENTIONS, AND YOU SHOULD CAREFULLY AVOID DISCUSSION OF THIS ASPECT.

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