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IAEA.

Unfortunately Embtel 500 delayed in transmission. No rpt no real substantive issue involved but rather question timing for obtaining BF provisional approval safeguards document. For your background, BG gave provisional approval general principles IAEA safeguards (Annex I) last September. BG held first reading detailed procedures implement these principles at its January Meeting and appointed seven-nation drafting committee technical experts to prepare single document combining principles and procedures. Drafting committee completed work late February and its report to Board (GOV/510 is safeguards document currently under discussion.

As indicated Vienna's 2206 majority BG favor approval April. This favorable situation created in part by strong US demarches governments members of Board other than Soviet Bloc and those participating in advance meeting Vienna. In view recent developments (such as Indian attempts obtain

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large reactors and fuel without safeguards) Department believes essential press strongly for provisional approval safeguards document this BG session. Further protracted debate in Board unlikely produce better document but in fact would provide opponents safeguards further opportunity delay and increase difficulty obtaining eventual Board approval.

Important that Western powers which have in past supported safeguards present solid front and abstention by Australia can only be subject misinterpretation and render task Western powers more difficult. Technical review safeguards document by responsible Australian ministry has indicated Australian Government could support safeguards document with few amendments, which presumably discussed Vienna. Department suggests that if GOA unable authorize Walker vote definitively for provisional approval, it consider authorizing him cast affirmative vote ad referendum to his government. GOA cabinet review could then be undertaken during interval between April and June Board meetings, and GOA could record its final position at June session. If GOA informs you impossible do other than abstain, urge GOA make abstention ad referendum so that it could be changed to affirmative vote in June.

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