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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SCSA, ENRG, TRGY, KNMP, PARM, TW
SUBJECT: TAIWAN RESEARCH REACTOR (TRR) CONVERSION

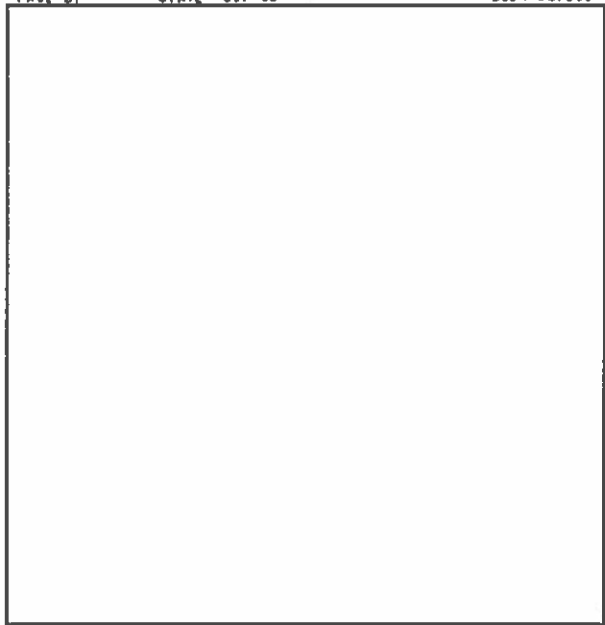
1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THE FIRST PHASE OF USG EFFORTS TO REMOVE SPENT TRR FUEL FROM TAIWAN IS UNDERWAY. (THIS PHASE ENTAILS REMOVAL OF CANADIAN ORIGIN FUEL RODS.) THE SECOND SHIPMENT OF TRR SPENT FUEL ELEMENTS OF CANADIAN ORIGIN IS ON ITS WAY TO THE U.S.

[Redacted]

DURING OCTOBER 1986 TAIWAN TRANSFERRED TO THE U.S. DOLLARS 12.0 MILLION TOWARDS THE ESTIMATED COST OF SHIPPING 1,300 ADDITIONAL SPENT FUEL RODS ABOVE THE 475 OF CANADIAN ORIGIN. THIS SHOULD ALLOW UNINTERRUPTED SHIPMENT OF THIS SPENT FUEL TO TAKE PLACE, ASSUMING ISSUES RELATED TO LAWSUITS FILED IN THE U.S. TO PROHIBIT THE ENTRY OF THE SPENT FUEL INTO U.S. PORTS PENDING RESOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND PROCEDURAL CONCERNS ARE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED.

3. BY MID-1989, AFTER A TOTAL OF ABOUT 1,600 RODS SHOULD HAVE BEEN REMOVED, AN "EQUILIBRIUM" STATE WILL HAVE BEEN REACHED WHERE THE NUMBER OF SPENT FUEL RODS REMAINING ON TAIWAN WILL HAVE BEEN MINIMIZED AT ABOUT ONE AND ONE-HALF YEARS DISCHARGE. IT HAS BEEN PLANNED SINCE THE SHIPMENT PROJECT BEGAN THAT, IN ADDITION TO SENDING SPENT TRR FUEL TO U.S., THE REACTOR CORE WOULD BE "CONVERTED" TO A DIFFERENT FUEL MIXTURE FROM A CORE OF ONLY NATURAL URANIUM METAL FUEL TO A MIXTURE OF URANIUM METAL AND LOW ENRICHED URANIUM DIOXIDE.

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