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ACTION OES-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-10 ACDE-00 AID-00 AIT-03 AMAD-01 CIAE-00
CIP-00 COME-00 OASY-00 DINT-00 DODE-00 DOEE-00 ITCE-00
SRPP-00 EAP-01 EB-00 E-00 UTED-00 H-01 TEDE-00
INR-00 IO-00 ITC-01 L-01 ADS-00 M-00 NASA-01
NAS-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 NSF-01 OIC-02 PM-00 PRS-00
CIO-00 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00 STR-00 T-00 USIE-00
EPAE-00 PMB-00 G-00 /024W
-----9B583A 191052Z /38

R 191045Z FEB 97
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8751
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL SHENYANG
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI
HQEPA WASHDC
AMCONSUL FUKUOKA
AIT TAIPEI 3142
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU
AMCONSUL CHENGDU

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 005483

STATE FOR A/S CLAUSSEN
STATE FOR OES/EGC/WICKWIRE, OES/EX/KIM, EAP/CM, ENAV
EPA/OIA FOR STROTHER
UNCLASSIFIED

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
Alan Flanigan, Senior
Reviewer

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SENV, CH
SUBJECT: COOL CHINESE RESPONSE TO U.S. PROPOSAL FOR
A CLIMATE CHANGE PROTOCOL

REF: (A) STATE 18963 (B) BEIJING 4117 (C) 96 BEIJING
42500 (D) 96 BEIJING 40752 (E) 96 BEIJING 41686 (F)
BEIJING 2865

1. SUMMARY: MOFA TREATY AND LAW DEPUTY DIVISION DIRECTOR WANG ZONGLAI TOLD ESTOFF THAT WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS FIND THE U.S. CLIMATE CHANGE PROTOCOL GOES TOO FAR IN CALLING FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO REDUCE EMISSIONS. A DETAILED CHINESE RESPONSE TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL HAS NOT YET BEEN PREPARED. WANG SAID CHINA SHARES THE VIEWS OF OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD RESOLVE THEIR OWN DIFFERENCES ON EMISSIONS REDUCTION AND IMPLEMENT THE COMMITMENTS THEY HAVE ALREADY MADE. END SUMMARY.
2. CHINESE MOFA DEPARTMENT OF TREATY AND LAW DEPUTY DIVISION DIRECTOR WANG ZONGLAI ON FEBRUARY 19 INFORMED ESTOFF THAT WORKING LEVEL CHINESE OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. CLIMATE CHANGE PROTOCOL PROPOSAL GOES TOO FAR BEYOND THE 1995 BERLIN AGREEMENT IN CALLING FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO REDUCE THEIR EMISSIONS. WANG SAID A DETAILED CHINESE RESPONSE TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL PASSED EARLIER TO MOFA (REF A) IS STILL IN PREPARATION.

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EMISSIONS REDUCTION COMMITMENTS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

3. WHILE STRESSING THAT CHINA DOES NOT HAVE ITS OWN DISTINCT POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, WANG SAID THAT CHINA IN GENERAL AGREES WITH THE OPPOSITION OF THE GROUP OF 77 DEVELOPING NATIONS TO EMISSIONS REDUCTION COMMITMENTS ON THE PART OF DEVELOPING NATIONS. WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT CHINA DOES NOT HAVE ITS OWN DISTINCT POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, WANG AGREED TO HELP ESTOFF UNDERSTAND IN GENERAL THE VIEWS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (INCLUDING CHINA) ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD RESOLVE OWN DIFFERENCES

5. WANG NOTED DISAGREEMENTS AMONG DEVELOPED COUNTRIES -- THE EUROPEAN UNION WANTS IMMEDIATE MANDATORY EMISSION LIMITS WHILE THE UNITED STATES IS RELUCTANT TO SEE LIMITS IMPOSED SOON. WANG SAID THAT

THESE DISAGREEMENTS ARE A MATTER FOR THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES -- THE MAJOR SOURCE OF POLLUTION, ESPECIALLY WHEN POLLUTION IS CONSIDERED ON A PER CAPITA BASIS -- TO RESOLVE AMONGST THEMSELVES. CHINA TAKES NO POSITION AND HAS NO VIEW ON HOW THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD HANDLE THIS MATTER. WANG NOTED THAT U.S. ANTHROPOGENIC CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

FIRST IMPLEMENT WHAT HAS BEEN AGREED UPON ALREADY
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6. WANG SAID WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IMPLEMENT THE COMMITMENTS THEY MADE AT RIO AND AGAIN AT BERLIN IN 1995. THE UN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE, SAID WANG, IS INDEED A FRAMEWORK -- EACH COUNTRY SETS FORTH FROM THE BASIC IDEAS OF THE AGREEMENT TO FIND A SOLUTION TO ITS OWN POLLUTION AND EMISSIONS PROBLEMS.

7. WANG STRESSED THAT CHINA IS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. [REFTEL C] WANG SAID THAT DEVELOPMENT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND SO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CANNOT COMMIT THEMSELVES TO REDUCING EMISSIONS. EACH COUNTRY MUST DEVELOP MEASURES ACCORDING TO ITS OWN SPECIFIC CONDITIONS.

8. WANG TOLD ESTOFF THAT THE DIFFERING VIEWS OF THE DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED NATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE ARE WELL KNOWN TO EACH OTHER
. NONETHELESS MUCH ROOM
CAN BE FOUND FOR COOPERATION.

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RECENT REPORTING ON CHINESE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

9. REPORTS FROM EMBASSY BEIJING WRITTEN OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS PROVIDE INFORMATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN CHINA WHICH MAY HELP UNDERSTAND THE CHINESE POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS.

10. EMBASSY BEIJING REFTELS C - E EXAMINE THE CHINESE ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION AND POLICY. PREMIER LI PENG'S STATEMENT 'ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MUST NOT TAKE PLACE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE ENVIRONMENT' IS EXAMINED IN REF C. REF D EXAMINES A REPORT ON CHINESE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS WRITTEN BY THE CHINESE STATE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION. REF E LOOKS AT THE ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN CHINA. REF F DISCUSSES CHINESE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS AND GROWING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.
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