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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Theodore Sellin, Senior Reviewer

NEW DELHI FOR BUTCHER AND MEER

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SENV, ETRD, EIND, UNEP, CH, IN
SUBJECT: MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON OZONE-DEPLETING CHEMICALS

- REF: A. 87 STATE 319737
- B. 87 STATE 382907
- C. 87 STATE 382075 (TO BEIJING)
- D. STATE 26003 (TO BEIJING)
- E. NEW DELHI 27219
- F. NEW DELHI 26077

1. SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST: CHINESE AND INDIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON UNCLASSIFIED

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ITS EFFECTIVENESS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSIES' ASSESSMENT OF CHINESE AND INDIAN VIEWS ON RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOL AND EMBASSIES' ADVICE ON BEST MEANS FOR USG TO FACILITATE/PROMOTE CHINESE AND INDIAN RATIFICATION.

2. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT STRONGLY SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO PROTECT THE STRATOSPHERIC OZONE LAYER. AS DESCRIBED IN REF A AND MATERIAL POUCHED TO EMBASSY IN OCTOBER AND DECEMBER, THE BROADEST POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE

OZONE LAYER IS IMPORTANT TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AGREEMENT IN PROTECTING THE STRATOSPHERIC OZONE LAYER. TWENTY-EIGHT COUNTRIES, INCLUDING US, USSR, JAPAN AND EC AND NINE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, HAVE SIGNED THE PROTOCOL. PRC AND INDIA HAVE NOT SIGNED.

4. ALTHOUGH THE PRC AND INDIAN CURRENT USE OF THE CHEMICALS CONTROLLED BY THE PROTOCOL IS RELATIVELY LOW, THEIR POTENTIAL FUTURE USE IS SUBSTANTIAL. A RECENT REPORT BY THE CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT NOTES THAT THE PARTICIPATION OR NONPARTICIPATION OF CHINA AND INDIA WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE PROTOCOL'S EFFECTIVENESS. (THE OTA REPORT NOTES THAT BOTH ARE "POOR COUNTRIES WITH ENORMOUS POPULATIONS AND REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC ECONOMIC PROSPECTS.") WE EXPECT QUESTIONS ON PRC AND INDIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE SENATE HEARING ON U.S. RATIFICATION, WHICH COULD BE SCHEDULED AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK, AND WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF THE PROSPECTS FOR RATIFICATION.

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5. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY ADVICE ON WHETHER AND HOW THE USG CAN PROMOTE RATIFICATION, E.G., SUGGESTIONS FOR REF D MISSION AND ANY OTHER OPPORTUNITIES YOU SEE. AS REQUESTED IN REF A, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER THERE ARE ANY SIGNIFICANT OBSTACLES TO SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION AND HOW LONG THE PROCESS IS LIKELY TO TAKE.

6. EMBASSY MAY FIND THE FOLLOWING POINTS USEFUL IN DISCUSSIONS WITH PRC AND GOI OFFICIALS:

-- THE ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: THE RISKS ARE REAL AND SUBSTANTIAL.

-- INTERNATIONAL STANDING: OTHER MAJOR COUNTRIES ARE

-- REDUCTIONS IN USE OF THE CHEMICALS ARE FEASIBLE --
ALTERNATIVE CHEMICALS AND TECHNOLOGIES EXIST FOR SOME
USES AND OTHERS ARE BEING DEVELOPED.

-- THE PROTOCOL RECOGNIZES THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF
LOW-CONSUMING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND PROVIDES THEM WITH
A 10 YEAR GRACE PERIOD.

-- PARTIES (INCLUDING MARKETS FOR PRC AND INDIAN EXPORTS)
WILL BAN IMPORTS FROM NON-PARTIES OF THE CHEMICALS AND
PRODUCTS CONTAINING THEM.

EFS AND POUCHED MATERIALS PROVIDED INFORMATION ON EACH
OF THESE ASPECTS. WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE
ADDITIONAL COPIES OR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION EMBASSY
OR HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS NEED.

7. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A RESPONSE BY FEBRUARY 5, SINCE
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SENATE HEARING MAY BE SCHEDULED ON SHORT NOTICE, AS WELL
AS CONTINUING REPORTING OF EMBASSY DIALOGUE WITH HOST
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON THIS SUBJECT. SHULTZ

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