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TAIPEI INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO ~~SECRET~~ STATE 051747 E. O. 11652 GDS TAGS: ENRG, TW,
MCAP, PINR SUBJECT: ROC NUCLEAR RESEARCH TOKYO FOR HELFRICH 1. VICTOR CHENG,
SECRETARY- GENERAL OF ROC/ AEC CALLED UPON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SNEIDER MARCH
20 AT LATTER' S REQUEST. CHENG WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ROC EMBASSY SCIENCE COUNSELOR PAN
HSUEH- CHANG. 2. CHENG REVIEWED DEVELOPMENT OF ROC NUCLEAR RESEARCH FACILITIES AT
TSING HUA UNIVERSITY, INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY (SHIH- MEN), CHUNG- SHAN SCIENCE
INSTITUTE AND UNION INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE. 3. HE OBSERVED THAT ROC HAS HAD
CLOSE RELATIONS WITH US AEC. HALF THE FUNDS NEEDED TO ACQUIRE TSING HUA POOL- TYPE
RESEARCH REACTOR AND REACTOR ITSELF HAD COME SECRET SECRET PAGE 02 STATE 051747 FROM
US, WHICH HAS ALSO PROVIDED SOME EQUIPMENT FROM ARGONNE LABORATORY AND AN ATOMS-
FOR- PEACE EXHIBIT. 4. NOTING BROAD AND EXPANDING CHARACTER OF ROC NUCLEAR RESEARCH
PROGRAM, SNEIDER ASKED WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE USEFUL FOR A US STUDY GROUP TO VISIT
TAIWAN TO CONSIDER COURSE OF US/ ROC NUCLEAR COOPERATION OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS. HE
THOUGHT A NUMBER OF US OFFICIALS WOULD LIKE TO SEE ROC NUCLEAR FACILITIES. US,
SNEIDER SAID, WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH ROC ON MUTUALLY PROFITABLE ACTIVITIES IN
NUCLEAR AREA, INCLUDING SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL AND EQUIP- MENT. CHENG WARMLY
WELCOMED SUGGESTION. 5. SNEIDER REPORTED APPRECIATION OF US GOVERNMENT FOR ROC
DECISION NOT TO PROCEED WITH PURCHASE AND CON- STRUCTION OF NUCLEAR FUEL
REPROCESSING PILOT PLANT. CHENG REPLIED THAT HE HAD ONLY LEARNED ABOUT PROPOSED
PILOT PLANT WHEN US GOVERNMENT PEOPLE ASKED HIM ABOUT IT WHEN HE WAS IN WASHINGTON
LAST DECEMBER. AFTER RETURN- ING TO TAIPEI, HE LEARNED THAT A LABORATORY DIRECTOR
INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING FOR ROC FULL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE FROM FABRICATION OF FUEL
ELEMENTS TO REPROCESSING OF SPENT ELEMENTS, HAD PRICED A REPROCESSING PILOT PLANT IN
EUROPE IN ORDER TO INCLUDE COST ESTIMATE IN BUDGET PROPOSAL. 6. SNEIDER SAID THAT US
HAD FOUND OUT ABOUT ROC INTER- EST IN REPROCESSING THROUGH EUROPEAN SOURCES. US HAD
BEEN GREATLY CONCERNED. HE BELIEVED THAT CHENG APPRECIATED SENSITIVITY OF MATTER. US
SUPPORT FOR NUCLE- AR COOPERATION WITH ROC DEPENDS UPON ROC ADHERENCE TO PEACEFUL
USES. IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN THE FUTURE, HE THOUGHT IF ROC WERE TO LET US KNOW WHEN
IT WAS CONSIDER- ING BUYING CERTAIN TYPES OF EQUIPMENT. IF IT HAD DONE SO WITH
RESPECT TO REPROCESSING PILOT PLANT, MUCH OF THE MYSTERY WOULD HAVE BEEN REMOVED. 7.
CHENG REPLIED THAT ROC DOES NOT HAVE ANY NUCLEAR SECRETS FROM ITS FRIENDS. ROC HAS
PLACED ALL ITS NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTORS AND NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT
FACILITIES IN AREA WHICH IS SAFEGUARDED BY IAEA. BOTH DR. BRUCE BILLINGS, FORMERLY
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO SECRET SECRET PAGE 03 STATE 051747 THE AMBASSADOR FOR SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY, AND MR. HELFRICH, AEC REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN TOKYO, HAD VISITED
ROC NUCLEAR FACILITIES. CHENG RECALLED BILLINGS HAD ONCE REMARKED THAT PEOPLE IN
WASHINGTON HAD NOT BELIEVED HIM WHEN HE HAD REPORTED THAT EVERYTHING IN THESE
FACILITIES WAS IN ORDER. BILLINGS HAD SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE WELL FOR THE ROC TO
OPEN ITS FACILITIES TO MORE PEOPLE FROM US. 8. IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING AT AEC, DR.
CHENG BRIEFLY DESCRIBED PROGRESS ON A LABORATORY- SCALE FUEL REPRO- CESSING FACILITY
NOW BEING CONSTRUCTED AT NUCLEAR SCIENCE INSTITUTE (NEXT DOOR TO CHUNG- SHAN).
BUILDING IS NOW COMPLETE AND STANDS EMPTY, BUT EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE IN- STALLED BY
END OF YEAR. CAPACITY OF THIS FACILITY WILL BE MINUSCULE: IT WILL PROCESS ONLY TWO
FUEL ELEMENTS PER YEAR (FROM THE TSING- HUA REACTOR), AND WILL YIELD ONLY 300 GRAMS
PU PER YEAR. CHENG NOTED THAT HE HAD TOLD THE AEC ABOUT THIS FACILITY WHEN HE
VISITED WASHINGTON LAST DECEMBER. ROGERS SECRET *** Current Handling Restrictions
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