

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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TAGS: MNVC, PARM, KS, FR, CA

SUBJECT: ROK NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT

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REF: STATE 285640

EU

IN RESPONSE TO ACTING SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S DECEMBER 5 APPROACH ON KOREAN REPROCESSING PLANT (REFTEL), CANADIAN AMBASSADOR WARREN TELEPHONED HR. INGERSOLL ON DECEMBER B TO SAY THAT GOC HAD DECIDED TO HOLD OFF ON SIGNING OF NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH ROK, SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 8-9, AND TO FOLLOW THIS ACTION WITH APPROACH TO ROK SEEKING INFORMATION ON KOREAN

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REPROCESSING PLANS.

- CANADIAN MINISTER TURNER SAW PM DIRECTOR VEST DECEMBER 10 TO REVIEW SITUATION AND ELABORATE ON CANA-DIAN RESPONSE. TURNER SAID THAT SIGNING OF GOC/ROK AGREE-MENT FOR NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR DECEN-BER B OR 9. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ACTING SECRETARY'S APPROACH ON DECEMBER 5, GOC HAD INFORMED ROK THAT THEIR MINISTERIAL TIMETABLE WOULD NOT PERMIT CANADA TO SIGN BEFORE JANUARY AT EARLIEST. GOC ALSO INTENDS TO MAKE EARLY APPROACH (TURNER ASSUMED THROUGH CANADIAN EMBASSY SECUL) TO ROK SEEKING INFORMATION ON PRESENT KOREAN PLANS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A REPROCESSING PLANT. GOC WILL LEAVE ROK TO DRAW ITS OWN CONCLUSIONS FROM THESE TWO ACTIONS. TURNER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US WOULD APPRECIATE DIFFICULTIES GOC HAD FACED IN DECIDING TO DEFER SIGNING AT ELEVENTH HOUR ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, TO WHICH IT EXPECTED SHARP ROK REACTION, AND STRESSED GOC'S DESIRE FOR CLOSE CONTACT ON THIS MATTER. TURNER CON-FIRMED THAT OTTAWA CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD US HAD NOT RE-QUESTED ANY SPECIFIC CANADIAN ACTION SUCH AS HOLDING UP SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT.
- 3. AS HAD INGERSOLL. VEST EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR RAPID AND HELPFUL CANADIAN RESPONSE. HE RECOGNIZED THAT TIMING OF OUR APPROACH HAD INADVERTENTLY PUT GOC IN TIGHT POSITION (WE WERE UNAWARE OF PROJECTED SIGNING DATE AT TIME OF INGERSOLL APPROACH). WE FELT OBLIGED TO NOTIFY CANADA OF OUR CONCLUSIONS AND PLANS AS SOON AS SECRETARY HAD DECIDED UPON US COURSE OF ACTION.
- 4. YOU SHOULD COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH YOUR CANADIAN COLLEAGUE, AND REPORT ANY FURTHER CANADIAN APPROACHES TO ROK. INGERSOLL



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