

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 231200Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6322
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

S E C R E T PARIS 33448

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, FR, KS

SUBJECT: ROK NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANS

REF: STATE 298094

1. IN COURSE OF GENERAL DISCUSSIONS ON INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR ISSUES WITH EMBOFF ON DECEMBER 22, MFA SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR DE NAZELLE MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT.
2. FRANCE APPRECIATED FRANK PRESENTATION BY US ON ITS APPROACH TO ROK AND US EFFORTS TO KEEP FRENCH INFORMED. DE NAZELLE HAD NOT RECEIVED THE REPORT FROM FRENCH EMBASSY COVERED BY REFTEL. EMBOFF BRIEFLY REVIEWED CONTENTS OF REFTEL.
3. ON THE SUBJECT OF A REGIONAL REPROCESSING PLANT, DE NAZELLE NOTED THAT THE JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS VISITING PARIS DURING THE WEEK OF DEC 22, AND HE WAS CONSIDERING INFORMALLY RAISING THE SUBJECT WITH THE JAPANESE DURING THIS VISIT. EMBOFF INDICATED THAT USG FAVORED CONSIDERATION OF SUCH A PROPOSAL (TO INCLUDE ROK NEEDS) AND RAISING THE MATTER WITH THE JAPANESE.

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DE NAZELLE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY EXPLORE THE

MATTER WITH THE JAPANESE AND ADVISE EMBOFF ON THE RE'
SULTS.

4. DE NAZELLE REITERATED HIS BELIEF THAT THE ROK WAS
COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY.
HE AGAIN STATED THAT THE FRENCH MANUFACTURER
AWAITED APPROVAL BY THE GOF TO PROCEED WITH THE
REPROCESSING PLANT AND THAT THE GOF WOULD NOT MAKE A
DECISION ON THE MATTER UNTIL AFTER US HAD FINISHED ITS
EFFORTS TO DISSUADE THE ROK FROM PURCHASING THE PLANT.
IN RESPONSE TO THE DIRECT QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE GOF
WOULD PROCEED WITH THE PLANT IF THE ROK DECIDED TO BUILD
THE PLANT, DE NAZELLE SAID THAT FRANCE WAS NOT PREPARED
AT THIS POINT TO HAVE ITS CONTRACTOR PROCEED WITH THE
CONSTRUCTION OF THE PLANT BUT THAT THIS DID NOT CON-
STITUTE A FIRM DECISION BY THE GOF NOT TO PROCEED WITH
THE PLANT.

5. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT GIVE A SPECIFIC FIGURE, DE
NAZELLE AGAIN NOTED THAT THE DOWNPAYMENT BY THE ROK TO
THE FRENCH CONTRACTOR FOR THE REPROCESSING PLANT WAS NOT
A SIGNIFICANT SUM. HE NOTED THAT IF THE GOF STOPPED THE
CONTRACT, THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE A SUIT FILED AGAINST
THE GOF BY THE FRENCH CONTRACTOR TO RECOUP THE DOWN-
PAYMENT. IF THE ROK STOPS THE CONTRACT, THE DOWNPAYMENT
WOULD BE FORFEITED AND PRESUMABLY THERE WOULD BE NO
COURT ACTION. IN ADDITION,, DE NAZELLE NOTED THAT THE
FRENCH REPUTATION WOULD BE LESS WORN IF THE ROK STOPPED
THE CONTRACT.

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