

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:JFORBES:VM
APPROVED BY OES:HDBENGELSDORF
EA/K - MR. O'DONOHUE
ERDA - MR. HELFRICH (SUBS.)
OES - MR. KRATZER
PM/NPO - MR. OPLINGER (SUBS.)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 008531

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: MNUC, PARM, KS

SUBJECT: ROK NUCLEAR REPROCESSING

REF: (A) SEOUL 0252; (B) STATE 006731; (C) STATE 305630

TOKYO PASS ERDA REP HENOCH

1. WE AGREE WITH YOUR ASSESSMENT THAT ROKG CLEARLY
WAVERING ON REPROCESSING PLANT DEAL AND IS FINALLY REALIZ-
ING DANGER TO ITS PEACEFUL NUCLEAR PROGRAMS PRESENTED BY
ITS FAILURE TO REACH EARLY DECISION TO CANCEL. WE FURTHER
AGREE IT IMPORTANT FOR US TO GIVE ROKG OCCASION FOR EARLY
DECISION TO CANCEL BY SENDING WASHINGTON GROUP TO SEOUL
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (SEPTEL WILL REPORT STATUS GOC
REEVALUATION ENTIRE CANDU PROJECT).

2. AS INDICATED REF (B), WE ARE NOW PREPARED TO SEND
GROUP FROM WASHINGTON TO HEAR ROKG EXPLAIN ITS PEACEFUL
NUCLEAR NEEDS AND TO ENGAGE IN PRELIMINARY, SINGLE DIS-

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CUSSION OF FUTURE ROK-US PEACEFUL NUCLEAR COOPERATION.

YOU SHOULD INFORM KIM THAT WE PROPOSE MEETINGS IN SEOUL JANUARY 22-23 BETWEEN MINISTER CHOI AND WASHINGTON GROUP HEADED BY ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY KRATZER AND INCLUDING KOREAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR O'DONOHUE AND ERDA OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION DIRECTOR HELFICH.

YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN TO KIM THAT THIS INVOLVES WASHINGTON DEPARTURE ON JANUARY 20, LESS THAN ONE WEEK FROM NOW, AND REPRESENTS PROMPTEST POSSIBLE SCHEDULE ON WHICH WE CAN DISPATCH THIS SENIOR GROUP. KRATZER WILL ARRIVE EARLY AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 22 AND IS PREPARED TO MEET THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND FRIDAY MORNING AND, IF NECESSARY, FRIDAY AFTERNOON. AT SAME TIME, YOU SHOULD STRESS IMPORTANCE TO OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS OF EARLY CANCELLATION, REEMPHASIZING OUR INABILITY TO GO BEYOND THIS SIMPLE EXCHANGE UNTIL ROKG HAS DECIDED TO CANCEL, PER INSTRUCTIONS REF (B).

3. KRATZER AND HELFRICH PLAN DEPART WASHINGTON JANUARY 20 AND ARRIVE SEOUL JANUARY 22 ON NW 21; THEY INTEND TO DEPART SEOUL ON NW 22 AFTERNOON JANUARY 23 OR ON JANUARY 24 NW FLIGHT. O'DONOHUE WILL ARRIVE TWO DAYS EARLIER AND WILL SEND TRAVEL INFORMATION SEPTTEL.

4. REGRET IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PASS THROUGH HONOLULU ENROUTE TO SEOUL IN VIEW SHORT TIME AVAILABLE AND OTHER PRESSING COMMITMENTS BY GROUP MEMBERS.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE RESERVATIONS CHOSUN HOTEL FOR GROUP.

6. FOR HENOCH: ERDA REQUESTS THAT YOU JOIN GROUP FOR SEOUL DISCUSSIONS. KRATZER AND HELFRICH WILL OVERNIGHT IN TOKYO JANUARY 21 AND YOU SHOULD MAKE RESERVATIONS ON NW 21 FLIGHT TO SEOUL JANUARY 22. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OCT: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER D. MACK S/S-O.

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