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TAIWAN ARE SUBJECT TO SAFEGUARDS APPLIED BY THE IAEA. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY VIOLATION OF SAFEGUARDS.

Q: IS THE U.S. CONCERNED ABOUT TAIWAN'S ACTIVITIES AND HAVE WE RAISED THESE CONCERNS WITH ISLAND AUTHORITIES?

DRAFTED BY: OES/NTS:ABURHART  
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AIT/M: JKYLE

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AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 090853

USVIENNA FOR UNVIC MISSION

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: KNMP, TRGY, ENRG, TM  
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON N.Y. TIMES ARTICLE ON SECRET  
TAIWAN NUCLEAR PLANT

REF: STATE 79789

1. ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, IN A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE, THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE U.S., TAIWAN HAS STOPPED WORK ON A SECRET INSTALLATION THAT COULD HAVE BEEN USED TO OBTAIN PLUTONIUM, A MAIN INGREDIENT IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE TEXT OF THE ARTICLE IS BEING TRANSMITTED SEPIEL. THIS FOLLOWS SEVERAL WEEKS OF TAIWAN PRESS ITEMS ON THE ISSUE AS WELL AS A FEW WIRE SERVICE STORIES WHICH PROMPTED THE REFTEL PRESS GUIDANCE.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS CLEARED THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH MAY BE USED IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES:

Q: THIS MORNING'S NEW YORK TIMES REPORTS THAT UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE U.S., TAIWAN HAS STOPPED WORK ON A SECRET INSTALLATION THAT COULD HAVE BEEN USED TO OBTAIN PLUTONIUM, A MAIN INGREDIENT IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THIS?

COMMENT ON THIS?

A: I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS OF THE N.Y. TIMES STORY. I WOULD ONLY REITERATE OUR PREVIOUS STATEMENTS ON THIS ISSUE. TAIWAN'S LEADERS HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY THAT TAIWAN HAS NO INTENTION OF DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. TAIWAN HAS UNDERTAKEN THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT). ALL NUCLEAR MATERIALS ON TAIWAN ARE SUBJECT TO SAFEGUARDS APPLIED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA). WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY VIOLATION OF SAFEGUARDS.

Q: HAS TAIWAN BEEN ESTABLISHING AN INSTALLATION FOR PLUTONIUM EXTRACTION?

A: IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT TAIWAN IS NOT ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT WITH ITS NON-PROLIFERATION COMMITMENTS. ALL NUCLEAR MATERIALS ON

A: THE U.S. IS COMMITTED TO NON-PROLIFERATION AND TO PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY CONSIDERED THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE U.S., INCLUDING BOTH THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS, PLACES ON TAIWAN'S ADHERENCE TO ITS NON-PROLIFERATION COMMITMENTS AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT TAIWAN UNDERSTANDS THIS. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT TAIWAN IS NOT ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT WITH ITS COMMITMENTS.

Q: DOES TAIWAN MAKE A PRIVATE COMMITMENT WITH THE U.S. GOING BEYOND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NPT AND HAS TAIWAN VIOLATED THESE PUBLIC COMMITMENTS?

A: TAIWAN'S LEADERS HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED THAT TAIWAN HAS NO INTENTION OF DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE U.S. HAS REPEATEDLY CONSIDERED THE IMPORTANCE IT PLACES ON TAIWAN'S ADHERENCE TO ITS NON-PROLIFERATION COMMITMENTS AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT TAIWAN UNDERSTANDS THIS. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT TAIWAN IS NOT ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT WITH ITS COMMITMENTS.

Q: WAS COL. CHING AN INFORMANT FOR THE U.S.?

A: I HAVE NOTHING FOR YOU ON THAT.

Q: HAS TAIWAN SHUT DOWN ITS LARGEST CIVILIAN RESEARCH REACTOR AT U.S. REQUEST?

A: THE U.S. HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT TAIWAN HAS INFORMED THE IAEA THAT IT IS SHUTTING DOWN THE TAIWAN RESEARCH REACTOR FOR ECONOMIC REASONS.

Q: HAS THE U.S. REQUESTED THAT TAIWAN SEND THE FUEL FROM ITS RESEARCH REACTOR TO THE U.S. TO ASSURE THAT NONE OF THE PLUTONIUM IS BEING USED TO WEAPONS?

A: THE U.S. AND TAIWAN ARE JOINTLY CONDUCTING A FUEL MOVEMENT PROJECT WITH SPENT RESEARCH REACTOR FUEL FROM TAIWAN. THIS PROJECT IS SIMILAR TO OTHER U.S. EFFORTS TO ACCEPT FOREIGN RESEARCH REACTOR SPENT FUEL IN ORDER TO REDUCE WASTES ABROAD OF FISSIONABLE MATERIALS.

3. MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SHULTZ

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