

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 017725

EXDIS MIL HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

POLAD FOR ASST SECRETARY HABIB AND AMBASSADOR SNEIDER

FOLLOWING REPEAT SEOUL 0546 ACTION SECSTATE 23 JAN 76 DTG

O 231520Z JAN 76

QUOTE

S E C R E T SEOUL 0546

EXDIS

DEPT PLS PASS CINCPAC FOR POLAD FOR ASST. SECRETARY HABIB

AND AMBASSADOR SNEIDER - CINCPAC HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC PARM KS FR

SUBJECT: ROK NUCLEAR REPROCESSING

REF: SEOUL 0545

1. JAN 23 AFTERNOON SESSION WITH ROK REPS INVOLVED DISCUSSION
OF SEPARATE DRAFTS OF SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSION PREPARED
BY EACH DELEGATION, AND DECISION TO PROCEED ON BASIS OF US
DRAFT FINAL AGREED TEXT TRANSMITTED REFTEL.

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2. AS IS CLEAR FROM TEXT, THERE IS CLEAR UNDERSTANDING ON PART OF ROK THAT STRENGTHENED COOPERATION IN FUTURE IS CONDITIONAL ON DECISION BY ROK TO CANCEL FRENCH REPROCESSING FACILITY, AND THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER US/ROK DISCUSSION OF FUTURE COOPERATION UNLESS AND UNTIL DECISION TO CANCEL IS MADE. WE ARE CONVINCED ON BASIS OF DISCUSSION WITH BOTH MINISTER CHOE AND DEPUTY PRIMIN NAM THAT AFFIRMATIVE RECOMMENDATION TO CANCEL WILL GO FORWARD TO PRESIDENT PARK SOONEST BUT WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT FINAL PRESIDENTIAL DECISION NOT YET MADE. HOWEVER, ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT DECISION IS LIKELY TO BE MADE VERY PROMPTLY.

3. TEXT CONFORMS CLOSELY TO US POSITION ON POTENTIAL AREAS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION, AND ALL INDICATIONS OF SUCH COOPERATIVE AREAS ARE EXPRESSED IN GENERAL TERMS AND ARE BROADLY QUALIFIED. MOST SIGNIFICANT DISCUSSION ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE AROSE WITH RESPECT TO EVENTUAL TRAINING RELATED TO REPROCESSING. ROK REPS ARGUED FORCEFULLY THAT US WAS TAKING ILLOGICAL AND IN-EQUITABLE POSITION BY INSISTING ON CANCELLATION OF REPROCESSING FACILITY DESIGNED FOR TRAINING PURPOSES, AND INSISTENCE THAT ROK RECEIVE ITS REPROCESSING SERVICES FROM MULTI-NATIONAL FACILITY, WHILE WITHHOLDING ANY INDICATION OF ASSISTANCE THAT WOULD ALLOW ROK TO PARTICIPATE MEANINGFULLY IN SUCH ENTERPRISE (ORIGINAL US FORMULATION INCLUDED STATEMENT SUPPORTING SUCH MEANINGFUL ROLE, BUT OMITTED REFERENCE TO POSITIVE US TRAINING ASSISTANCE). FORMULATION DEVELOPED AS RESULT DISCUSSIONS WITH ROK REPS TIES ANY US TRAINING HELP NOT ONLY TO US CAPABILITIES, BUT TO ACTUAL ROK PARTICIPATION IN AGREED MULTI-NATIONAL ARRANGEMENT. THUS TRAINING BECOMES ADDED INCENTIVE TO ROK TO PARTICIPATE IN MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATION, AND CANNOT BE EMPLOYED AS STEP TO INDEPENDENT NATIONAL CAPABILITY. FORMULA ALSO MAKES IT CLEAR THAT ANY TRAINING WILL BE PHASED TO CORRESPOND WITH SUCCESSIVE STEPS IN MULTILATERAL REPROCESSING PROJECT ITSELF. ROK CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS WHAT IS MEANT BY OUR FORMULATION. I.E. NO TRAINING OUTSIDE OF MULTI-NATIONAL CONTEXT.

4. ROK UNDERSTANDS THAT BOTH TEXT AND US REPS ABILITY TO INITIAL ANY RECORD IS AD REFERENDUM. SUBJECT TO DEPT'S APPROVAL, INITIALLING IS SET-UP FOR 1000 HOURS SEOUL TIME, JAN 24. FOR REASONS OUTLINED ABOVE, AND IN MESSAGE REPORTING DISCUSSIONS

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WITH NAM, EMBASSY AND US REPS BELIEVE THIS STEP IS BEST CHANCE TO SECURE EARLY ROK DECISION TO CANCEL, WITHOUT COMMITTING OR IMPLYING INAPPROPRIATE US COOPERATION.

5. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR INFORMED CHARGE EVENING JAN 23 THAT CANADIAN CABINET HAD AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT RE CANDU SALE PROVIDED ROKG RESPONDS POSITIVELY TO CANADIAN REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE THAT ROK WILL NOT PURSUE ACQUISITION OF FRENCH

REPROCESSING FACILITY. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WHEN HE PASSED THIS INFORMATION TO FONMIN JAN 23, LATTER INFORMED HIM THAT HE COULD EXPECT RESPONSE BY 1100 JAN 24. TIMING GIVEN CANADIAN AMBASSADOR SUGGESTS THAT ROK DECISION MAKING IS CLEARLY KEYED TO OUTCOME US DISCUSSIONS.
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