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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

039553

R 161645Z JUL 76 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3054 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN AMEMBASSY OTTAWA AMEMBASSY SEOUL AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

S E C R E T PARIS 20831

EXDIS

E.O.11652: (DS)

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, PARM, KS, FR

SUBJ: KOREAN REPROCESSING

Letain Class'n Change to

Declassify in part and excise as shown

EQ 12958, 25X(')()()

Declassify After

With confidence (not)(obtained)

With configurence (not)(obtained)

IPS by Date 3/27(0)

- REF: (A) SEOUL 5351; (B) STATE 157296; (C) PARIS 12805
- 1. ON JULY 15, MFA SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR DE NAZELLE INFORMED EMBASSY SCICOUN ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THIS SUBJECT, SEVERAL OF WHICH THE FRENCH HAD PREVIOUSLY GIVEN TO THE CANADIANS. HE ALSO PROVIDED ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED FRENCH-BUILT NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER FOR SOUTH KOREA.
- 2. WISHING TO INFORM US "UNOFFICIALLY", DE NAZELLE STATED THAT THE FRENCH HAD INFORMED THE CANADIANS IN JUNE OF THE EFFORTS BY SOUTH KOREA TO OBTAIN ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT FOR A REPROCESSING FACILITY USING TAIWAN AS A PURCHASING AGENT. ABOUT JUNE 7 OR 8 THE FRENCH MFA WAS INFORMED BY A FRENCH FIRM (ONE WHICH SUBCONTRACTS WITH ST. GOBAIN ON NUCLEAR REPROCESSING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS) THAT ON THE PRIOR DAY THEY HAD BEEN CONTACTED SECRET

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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir. (4) Release (1) Excise (1) Deny (4) Declassify Date 415 64 Exemption

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BY A TAIWAN FIRM TO PURCHASE CERTAIN EQUIPMENT FOR A NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT TO BE BUILT IN SOUTH KOREA. THE EQUIPMENT INCLUDED A CENTREFUGE AND PULSATING PUMPS OF THE SIZE AND NATURE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN USED IN THE PROPOSED AND DROPPED FRENCH REPROCESSING PLANT FOR SOUTH KOREA. ALSO, AS THE FRENCH UNDERSTAND, THE TAIWAN FIRM CONSULTED A BELGIAN FIRM (EUROCHEMIQUE) AND A GERMAN FIRM REGARDING THE SAME ITEMS. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS DENIED ITS FIRM LICENSE TO EXPORT SUCH EQUIPMENT TO SOUTH KOREA DIRECTLY OR THROUGH TAIWAN.

- 3. THE TAIWAN FIRM ALSO CONTACTED THE FRENCH NUCLEAR FUEL FABRICATING FACILITY CIRCA REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF A CANDU FUEL FABRICATION PLANT FOR SOUTH KOREA. LICENSE FOR THIS WAS ALSO DENIED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.
- 4. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DE NAZELLE FOLLOWS CLOSELY THAT CONTAINED IN REFTEL (B). THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS THAT THE AGENTS FOR SOUTH KOREA WERE FROM TAIWAN. DURING THIS DISCUSSION NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THE "NRX" REACTOR OR TO CONTACTS WITH A BELGIAN FIRM (BELGONUCLEAIRE). EMBOFF MADE NO REFERENCE TO HAVING RECEIVED SIMILAR INFORMATION VIA REFTEL (B).
- 5. THE FRENCH ARRANGEMENT WITH ROK TO BUILD A NUCLEAR LABORATORY CONTINUES ON COURSE AND WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROJECT IS IN REFTEL (C). IN COMMENTING ON THE STATUS OF THIS PROJECT, MFA OFFICIALS STRESSED THAT THE LABORATORY WOULD ONLY PERMIT ANALYSIS OF PWR FUEL ELEMENTS AS THE PWR NEEDLES WERE SHORTER THAN THOSE FOR THE CANDU REACTOR; ST. GOBAIN HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE THE LABORATORY FACILITIES NO LONGER THAN THAT NECESSARY TO HANDLE THE PWR ELEMENTS AND NOT TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT CUTTING THE CANDU NEEDLES.
- 6. EMBOFF AGAIN QUESTIONED MFA OFFICIALS ON THEIR INTENTION TO MAKE PUBLIC INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED FRENCH-BUILT LABORATORY FOR SOUTH KOREA. AT THIS TIME, MFA HAS NO INTENTION OF MAKING PUBLIC ANY INFORMATION SECRET

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ON THIS PROJECT. EMBOFF ENCOURAGED DE NAZELLE TO BE PREPARED TO MAKE THE COMPLETE STORY AVAILABLE IN THE EVENT PARTIAL FACTS BECOME KNOWN AND THE PUBLIC BEGINS

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TO ASSUME THE WORST CONDITIONS EMPLOYING THOSE FEW FACTS. RUSH

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