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TO: STATE RCI

SECRET SEOUL _____

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB FROM AMBASSADOR SNEIDER

REFS: A. SEOUL 1089

B. SEOUL 8023

RECENTLY RECEIVED SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE DATA WITH SUPPORTING COMMERCIAL INDICATORS REPORTED IN REF A LEADS EMBASSY TO BELIEVE THAT ROK IS DETERMINED TO ADVANCE AS FAST AS POSSIBLE IN THE DIRECTION PROJECTED BY REF B MESSAGE. REF B PARA THREE PROJECTION OF ROK INTEREST IN NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING FACILITIES HAS BEEN BUTRESSED BY SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENTS. FROM SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE MESSAGES EMBASSY HAS TENTATIVELY CONCLUDED THAT THE ROK GOVERNMENT HAS PURCHASED OR IS ABOUT TO PURCHASE FROM VARIOUS FRENCH CONCERNS NUCLEAR MATERIALS REPROCESSING EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH A LABORATORY SIZED PLANT OF 22 KG/DAY CAPACITY. WHILE THE SPECIFIC VALUE OF THESE VARIOUS DEALS IS ALSO VAGUE IT APPEARS TO BE AN EXPENDITURE OF BETWEEN \$20-\$30 MILLION. AGREEMENTS FOR THE TRAINING OF NUCLEAR TECHNICIANS AND FOR CERTAIN "UNSPECIFIED" SERVICES ARE INDICATED. ADDITIONALLY, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE ROK HAS BEGUN TO LOOK TO FRANCE AS A POTENTIAL LONG

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RANGE SUPPLIER FOR BOTH ENRICHED URANIUM AND OTHER NUCLEAR MATERIALS. WHILE THIS ANALYSIS IS OF NECESSITY NO MORE THAN EMBASSY'S READING OF COLLECTED SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE, SOMETHING IS CLEARLY AFOOT.

SNEIDER

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March 3, 1975



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