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**INCOMING  
TELEGRAM**

SECRET NOD451

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ACTION NODS-00

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P 140936Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0067

*For ROC  
JN*

SECRET TAIPEI 06279

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FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MNUC, TW

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CHIANG'S REPLY TO SECRETARY VANCE'S  
LETTER ON NUCLEAR MATTERS

REF: TAIPEI 6065

1. THIS MORNING I RECEIVED IN SEALED ENVELOPE PRESIDENT CHIANG'S REPLY TO YOUR LETTER TO HIM (DELIVERED BY ME ON SEPTEMBER 8) CONCERNING THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. I WOULD LIKE TO DELIVER THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO YOU DURING MY FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATION BEGINNING ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18.

2. I HAVE JUST NOW ALSO RECEIVED FROM THE VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS A COPY OF THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY DATED SEPTEMBER 13; THE TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: THIS IS TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR MESSAGE TRANSMITTED BY AMBASSADOR LEONARD UNGER ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1978. THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN YOUR LETTER REGARDING OUR NUCLEAR PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD

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TO THE LASER ISOTOPE SEPARATION WORK, HAVE BEEN ONLY NOTED.

IN REPLY, I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS NOT ENGAGED IN ANY RESEARCH WORK IN THE SENSITIVE FIELDS OF NUCLEAR ENRICHMENT, REPROCESSING OR HEAVY-WATER PRODUCTION. THE LASER RESEARCH WORK CURRENTLY CONDUCTED AT THE CIST (CHUNG SHAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY) HAS NEVER AIMED AT ISOTOPE SEPARATION. WHILE THERE WAS SOME RESEARCH WORK ON THIS SUBJECT AT THE INER (INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH) IN THE PAST, THIS HAS LONG BEEN STOPPED AND WILL NOT BE REVIVED IN THE LIGHT OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THE UNITED STATES NOT TO ENGAGE IN ANY WORK THAT MIGHT LEAD TO NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. I WISH TO AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM THE POLICY OF MY GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR ENERGY EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, AND ALSO TO REASSURE YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR A NUCLEAR DEVICE OR TO ENGAGE IN ANY ACTIVITY RELATED TO REPROCESSING PURPOSES. MOREOVER, OUR SCIENTISTS IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD OR IN ANY OTHER RELATED FIELDS WILL CONTINUE TO ACT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ONCE AGAIN OUR SINCERE HOPE THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO SEND AMERICAN NUCLEAR EXPERTS TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO WORK WITH THEIR CHINESE COUNTERPARTS ON A LONG-TERM BASIS, THUS AVOIDING ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE NATURE OF OUR NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM. SURELY, THIS US-RUC JOINT VENTURE IN NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WILL HELP SPEED UP POSITIVE RESULTS IN.

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LINE WITH OUR AGREEMENTS. END TEXT UNGER

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