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DRAFTED BY PH/NPP: AMLOCKE: JHM
APPROVED BY T/D: JNYE
EA - AMB. UNGER
EA/ROC - H. FELDMAN
ACDA - R. WILLIAMSON
ACDA - J. MENZEL
INR/STA - J. HAYES
DES/NET - M. GUMIN
DES/NET - D. COOPER
S/P - A. RAPHEL
S/P L BRECKON
DOE/IA: F MCGOLDRICK
S/AS: R KELLEY
PH/NPP: M HUMPHREYS
S/S T REYNOLDERS

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~~TO AEMBASSY WASHDC~~
TO AEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

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EXDIS -FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MMUC, PARM, TECH, ENRG, TV

~~SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO ROC ON ASSIGNMENT OF US NUCLEAR
SCIENTISTS~~

REF: TAIPEI 6351

1. YOU SHOULD TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITY WITH PRESIDENT CHIANG OR OTHER APPROPRIATE SENIOR GRC OFFICIALS TO PRESENT US RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT CHIANG'S OFFER TO HOST US NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS IN TAIWAN'S NUCLEAR RESEARCH PROGRAMS. PARA 2 CONTAINS TEXT OF NON-PAPER YOU MAY WISH TO LEAVE WITH GRC. SUCCEEDING PARAS CONVEY, FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY, RATIONALE UNDERLYING THE NATURE OF OUR RESPONSE.

2. TEXT OF NON-PAPER FOLLOWS.

"WE WELCOME THE GRC'S DETERMINATION TO DIRECT ITS NUCLEAR RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS NONPROLIFERATION INITIATIVES. THE USG APPRECIATES THE GRC'S OFFER TO HOST US SCIENTISTS ON ASSIGNMENT TO WORK IN ROC NUCLEAR RESEARCH PROGRAMS, AND THUS TO REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF THE NATURE OF THESE PROGRAMS.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE RESPECTIVE INTERESTS OF THE ROC AND THE US WOULD BE SERVED THROUGH STRENGTHENED AND BROADENED

DIALOGUE BETWEEN SCIENTISTS WORKING IN OUR RESPECTIVE NUCLEAR PROGRAMS. WE BELIEVE THIS COULD BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY MEANS OF PERIODIC VISITS BY HIGHLY-QUALIFIED US CONSULTANTS IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF RELEVANCE TO THE ROC'S PEACEFUL NUCLEAR PROGRAMS. THESE CONSULTANTS COULD RESIDE FOR PERIODS OF TIME AT SELECTED ROC RESEARCH FACILITIES AND PROVIDE CONSULTING SERVICES WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS OF EXPERTISE. THE USG WOULD EXPECT TO BEAR THE COSTS OF PROVIDING THESE EXPERTS TO THE ROC.

"WE BELIEVE SUCH CONSULTANTS COULD BE OF SIGNIFICANT BENEFIT TO THE ROC IN DEVELOPING AND BROADENING ITS

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF TAIWAN'S SCIENTIFIC AND ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD. AS THE GRC HAS SUGGESTED THIS DIALOGUE BETWEEN EXPERTS FROM BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES MIGHT ALSO SERVE TO REDUCE THE CHANCES OF POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF THE NATURE OF ROC NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD EXPECT THESE EXPERTS TO BE AFFORDED FULL ACCESS TO RELEVANT FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL IN THE ROC. WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT IN PROPOSING THE ARRANGEMENT DESCRIBED ABOVE, WE MAY FROM TIME TO TIME WISH TO UTILIZE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS TO RESOLVE ANY SUCH QUESTIONS, CONSISTENT WITH UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN THE GRC AND THE USG AFFORDING THE US FREE AND COMPLETE ACCESS TO ROC NUCLEAR-RELATED ACTIVITIES.

"IF THE GRC FINDS THIS PROPOSAL OF INTEREST, WE SUGGEST THAT DISCUSSIONS BEGIN AMONG APPROPRIATE ELEMENTS OF THE GRC AND THE USG TO WORK OUT THE PRACTICAL DETAILS AND TO ARRANGE FOR FIRST VISITS BY US CONSULTANTS. THE RESULTING EXPERIENCE, AS WELL AS CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE GRC AND THE USG, SHOULD GUIDE DEVELOPMENT OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROPOSAL."

3. IN FORMULATING THIS RESPONSE TO THE ROC, OUR AIM HAS BEEN TO MEET PRESIDENT CHIANG'S OFFER IN A POSITIVE MANNER, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME AVOIDING A RANGE OF COMPLICATIONS WE BELIEVE WOULD ATTEND PERMANENT STATIONING OF US SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL ON TAIWAN. IN ADDITION, WE BELIEVE THE PROPOSAL OUTLINED ABOVE WOULD AFFORD US SOME ADVANTAGE AS A MEANS TO MAKE MORE DIFFICULT ANY ROC EFFORTS TO ENGAGE IN WEAPONS-RELATED NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES, AND WOULD ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR OVERALL EFFORTS TO KEEP CLOSELY INFORMED OF ROC ACTIVITIES IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD.

4. WE DO NOT INTEND THAT ANY PROGRAM OF VISITING US CONSULTANTS SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE ROC TO SERVE AS OUR

MEANS OF VERIFYING THE PEACEFUL NATURE OF ITS NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES. SUCH CONSULTANTS WOULD HAVE EXTREMELY LIMITED OPPORTUNITY TO PERFORM SUCH VERIFICATION, AND WOULD IN ANY EVENT NOT BE THE APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUALS TO PERFORM A MISSION OF THAT NATURE. ACCORDINGLY, IN RESPONDING TO PRESIDENT CHIANG'S OFFER, WE WISH THE ROC CLEARLY TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE MAY, IN FUTURE, AGAIN WISH TO ADOPT OTHER MEANS, SUCH AS SPECIAL TEAM VISITS, WHEN NECESSARY TO CLARIFY ANY QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT ARISE REGARDING NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES ON TAIWAN.

5. AT LEAST UNTIL WE HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE BEHIND US IN IMPLEMENTING OUR CONSULTANT OFFER, WE DO NOT WANT TO BE DRAWN INTO ANY FORMALIZED ARRANGEMENTS LOOKING TOWARD THE LONG TERM. THE OVERALL UTILITY AND PRACTICALITY OF MANAGING AN ELABORATE PROGRAM OF VISITING US SCIENTISTS IS NOT YET CLEAR TO US. THEREFORE, WE WOULD INTEND TO APPROACH IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS OFFER, AT LEAST INITIALLY, IN AN AD HOC MANNER WITH NO SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS REGARDING THE BREADTH AND DURATION OF THE PROGRAM.

6. FINALLY, ALTHOUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS OFFER WILL OF NECESSITY INVOLVE THE EMBASSY CLOSELY, WE WILL SEEK TO MINIMIZE THE BURDEN ON THE US OFFICIAL STAFF IN TAIWAN. SCIENTISTS WOULD BE SELECTED, BRIEFED IN ADVANCE OF THEIR MISSIONS, AND DEBRIEFED UPON THEIR RETURN BY WASHINGTON AGENCIES. WE WOULD EXPECT THEM TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL ORIENTATION BY THE EMBASSY UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN TAIWAN, AND WHILE IN THE COUNTRY TO MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY THROUGH A CONTROL OFFICER DESIGNATED TO HANDLE THESE VISITS. ALTHOUGH NOT OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE USG, VISITING SCIENTISTS WOULD REMAIN UNDER OFFICIAL USG GUIDANCE FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR

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PRESENCE ON TAIWAN.

7 ASSUMING A FAVORABLE REACTION BY THE ROC TO OUR PRO-
POSAL, WE ANTICIPATE THAT ACDA AND DOE, WITH THE DEPART-
MENT'S PARTICIPATION, WOULD BE THE POINT OF CONTACT AT
THE US END IN ARRANGING FIRST SPECIFIC SCIENTISTS VISITS.

CHRISTOPHER

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