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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ANRP, TRGY, NSCA, TW
SUBJECT: VISIT TO TAIWAN'S INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR
ENERGY RESEARCH

[Handwritten notes and signatures]

1. SUMMARY: INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH OFFICIALS BRIEFED AIT E/C CHIEF AND SETOFF ON THE STATUS OF THE TRR CONVERSION AND SPENT FUEL MOVEMENT PROJECTS DURING A RECENT VISIT TO INER. INER DEPUTY DIRECTOR CHANG SEN-I REVIEWED TELEX COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND DR. DIAMOND REGARDING THE RESCHEDULED NOVEMBER MEETING. INER OFFICIALS REPEATED WELL-KNOWN CONCERNS REGARDING PUBLICITY, COORDINATION AND SAFETY. THEY POINTED TO THE RECENT CONCLUSION OF A US \$1.3 MILLION CONTRACT WITH NAC AS DEMONSTRATING THEIR SINCERITY AND COMMITMENT TO JOINT AIT/CCHAA COOPERATION. AITOFFS TOURED INER'S DRY STORAGE PIT AREA AND THE TRR, WHICH IS CURRENTLY SHUT DOWN FOR MAINTENANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. AIT E/C CHIEF AND SETOFF VISITED TAIWAN'S INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH ON OCTOBER 2. THE VISIT, WHICH WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE AITOFFS WITH AN OVERVIEW OF INER FACILITIES, WAS ARRANGED BY AEC SECRETARY GENERAL LIU KUANG-CHI. INER DIRECTOR CHOU HEN-CHANG, DEPUTY DIRECTORS CHANG SEN-I AND HO SUNG-LIN, SPENT FUEL PROJECT MANAGER W.C. FANG, AND LIU KUANG-CHI WERE PRESENT.

3. DEPUTY DIRECTOR CHANG REVIEWED PROJECT SUMMARIES OF THE TRR CONVERSION AND FUEL MOVEMENT PROJECTS. HE ALSO PROVIDED AITOFFS WITH COPIES OF TELEX CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND DR. DIAMOND CONCERNING THE MEETING RESCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN EARLY NOVEMBER AT BROOKHAVEN. THAT TELEX CORRESPONDENCE INDICATES THAT TAIWAN SPECIALISTS WHO PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING INCLUDE Y.B. CHEN, N.Y. HUANG, SHYR JHY-JEN, AND CHANG SEN-I.

4. DRS. CHOU AND CHANG REPEATEDLY STRESSED INER'S DESIRE TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECTS AS QUICKLY AS IS FEASIBLE. INER OFFICIALS REPEATED A WELL-KNOWN LITANY OF THEIR CONCERNS. THEY AGAIN RAISED THE ISSUE OF TAIWAN'S EXTREME SENSITIVITY REGARDING THE POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS IN TAIWAN OF ANY PUBLICITY SURROUNDING SPENT FUEL MOVEMENTS. E/C CHIEF LINCOLN RESPONDED THAT AIT WAS WELL AWARE OF THOSE CONCERNS AND EXPRESSED THE CONFIDENCE THAT

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THE FEDERAL REGISTER NOTIFICATION PROCESS COULD BE HANDLED IN A WAY WHICH WOULD NOT RESULT IN ANY PROBLEMS. INER OFFICIALS POINTED TO DIFFICULTIES IN COORDINATING AMONG VARIOUS TAIWAN AGENCIES INVOLVED IN CASK TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS; PARTICULARLY WHEN LATE ARRIVAL OF THE CASK TRANSPORT SHIP NECESSITATES RESCHEDULING. INER OFFICIALS TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY AGAIN TO VOICE (FOR THE RECORD) THEIR PROBLEMS WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF ENCASING SPENT FUEL RODS IN ALUMINUM RATHER THAN STAINLESS STEEL.

5. DURING A REVIEW OF THE SPENT FUEL MOVEMENT SCHEDULE, DIRECTOR CHOU POINTED TO THE RECENT CONCLUSION OF A CONTRACT WITH NAC ON DRY STORAGE PIT EQUIPMENT AS AN EXAMPLE OF TAIWAN'S SINCERITY IN MOVING AHEAD. CHOU NOTED THAT THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED EVEN THOUGH THE VALUE, AT US \$1.3 MILLION, WAS US \$400,000 OVER EARLIER NAC ESTIMATES. AEC SECRETARY GENERAL LIU EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT WHILE THEY ARE IN GENERAL SATISFIED WITH THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH NAC, HE FELT THERE MAY BE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST BETWEEN WHAT HE TERMED AS INER'S OBJECTIVE THAT THE PROGRAM BE "SAFE AND QUIET" AND NAC'S PROFIT MOTIVE.

6. AITOFFS BRIEFLY TOURED THE SPENT FUEL DRY STORAGE PIT AREA AND VIEWED THE TRR. THE TRR IS CURRENTLY SHUT DOWN FOR THREE MONTHS FOR MAINTENANCE, AND SPENT FUEL CASK OPERATIONS WERE UNDERWAY.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH INITIALLY SCHEDULED AS A COURTESY VISIT, INER OFFICIALS USED THE OCCASION TO ATTEMPT TO TRY AND CLEAR UP ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS REGARDING THE NOVEMBER MEETING AT BROOKHAVEN. WHILE INER OFFICIALS STRESSED THE DESIRE TO MOVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE ON PROJECTS UNDERWAY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR CHANG POINTEDLY NOTED THAT SAFETY OUTWEIGHED ALL CONSIDERATIONS.
DEAN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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