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04 MAY 2006

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EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOR AMBASSADOR SNEIDER

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EXDIS

DEPT PLS PASS CINCPAC (POLAD) - FOR AMBASSADOR SNEIDER

TOKYO PASS ERDA REP HENOCH

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR MNUC PARM KS CA

SUBJECT: ROK NUCLEAR REPROCESSING

REF: A. STATE 9920 B. STATE 11773

1. ECON COUNSELOR TOOK ADVANTAGE OF PREVIOUSLY MADE APPOINTMENT WITH DPM NAM THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS REF A.

2. ECON COUNSELOR GAVE HIM NAMES OF VISITING TEAM AND SHORT BIOS. HE INDICATED THAT MEETINGS WITH MOST MINISTER CHOI WOULD

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BE SCHEDULED FOR THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 22 AND THE MORNING OF JANUARY 23. HE ARRANGED A COURTESY CALL FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY KRATZNER AND CHARGE ON NAM FOR 9:00 JANUARY 23. HE HAD HOPED TO ARRANGE IT LATER IN THE DAY, BUT NAM WILL BE OCCUPIED WITH THE PRESIDENT. (REF B WAS RECEIVED SUBSEQUENT TO OUR MEETING WITH NAM SO WE MAY TRY TO RESCHEDULE ACCORDINGLY.)

3. ECON COUNSELOR INDICATED WE WISHED TO AVOID PUBLICITY TO WHICH NAM AGREED.

4. ECON COUNSELOR RAISED THE SENATE HEARINGS ON THE FRENCH REPROCESSING FACILITY AND ON U.S. NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY TO THE ROK MENTIONED IN PARA 5, AND INDICATED AGAIN CANCELLATION OF THE REPROCESSING CONTRACT WAS URGENT, BOTH IN TERMS OF THOSE HEARINGS AND OUR UNDERSTANDING OF POSSIBLE PUBLIC REACTIONS IN CANADA.

5. NAME MADE NOTES BUT OFFERED LITTLE IN RESPONSE. HE SAID MOST MINISTER CHOI WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF THE TALKS ON THE ROKG SIDE AND NO ONE ELSE AS THE TALKS WERE TECHNICAL. HE INDICATED THAT ONE AFTERNOON AND ONE MORNING SEEMED VERY LITTLE TIME FOR THE DISCUSSIONS ON COOPERATION. ECON COUNSELOR INDICATED THAT THEY WERE MEANT TO BE INDICATIVE AND NOT NEGOTIATIONS, SINCE WE WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO GET INTO DETAILS UNTIL AFTER THE REPROCESSING FACILITY WAS CANCELLED. NAM OBVIOUSLY UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORT OF SENATE HEARINGS BUT OTHER THAN VERIFYING THE DATES AND SUBJECTS, OFFERED NO COMMENT.

6. AT THE END NAM RAISED THE QUESTION OF HOW TO CANCEL WITH THE FRENCH. ECON COUNSELOR REPEATED THAT WE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT

THEY HAD ALMOST FROM THE BEGINNING INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO CANCEL AND THAT MOREOVER WE HAD UNDERSTOOD THEY THEMSELVES HAD HAD SOME SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE ADVISABILITY OF THE PROJECT. NAM THEN CLOSED THE SUBJECT BY SAYING THAT WE SHOULD WORRY ABOUT THE MODALITIES OF CANCELLATION WITH THE FRENCH LATER--AS IF HE DID NOT WANT TO REVEAL HOW FAR THE ROKG HAD GONE IN ITS OWN THINKING.

7. THE TEAM'S VISIT COINCIDES WITH THE PRESENCE OF NYT HALLORAN AND WP'S SAAR, WHICH INCREASES RISK OF PUBLICITY. WHILE WE ARE PREPARED TO USE YOUR SUGGESTED POSITION, IT MAY PROVE

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DIFFICULT TO HOLD TO, SINCE REFUSAL TO COMMENT FURTHER ON SUPPOSEDLY ROUTINE TALKS SUGGESTS THEY ARE NOT ROUTINE. THEREFORE, IF PRESSED, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ADD THAT TEAM IS HERE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH ROK COUNTERPARTS ON FUTURE COOPERATION IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL FIELDS, I.E., TRAINING, EXCHANGE OF PUBLICATIONS AND VISITS WHICH OFFERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE DETAILED YET UNEXCITING.

8. RE REF B, KRATZER AND HELFRICH COULD ARRIVE EVENING JANUARY 21 VIA KAL 001 DEPARTING TOKYO 1830. SUGGEST THEY EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY, WHICH MIGHT BE MORE CONVENIENT ALL AROUND.  
ERICSON  
UNQTE KISSINGER

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