

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NN0009038
By JW NARA Date 1-31

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Taipei, Taiwan

November 23, 1973

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
SECRET

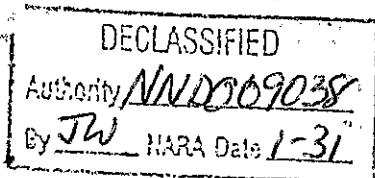
Thomas Bleha, Esquire
Deputy Director
Republic of China Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Dear Tom:

The Atomic Energy Study Team has come and gone. As we stated in our reporting telegrams all of us who were involved believe the exercise was worthwhile and successful. We cannot guarantee that certain people will not continue to nudge the ROC into activities associated with a nuclear weapons program but short of a flat statement to Premier Chiang I think we have done everything possible to underscore the firmness of our position. I think we should expect some further ROC purchases of equipment for its lab-sized reprocessing facility but if the ROC makes another effort to acquire a reprocessing plant or to train people abroad in this field, I personally would be sufficiently concerned to favor going to the Premier.

Abe Friedman and his colleagues performed their role with skill. Even if some of them had the hesitation mentioned in your letter of November 6 to me, they never displayed it to the ROC and Friedman conducted himself with firmness. At one point he was tempted to accept Victor Cheng's suggestion that we stop short of a flat turn down by postponing a final decision on the reprocessing plant until it was a more practical question. I argued that if we did not

SECRET



SECRET

-2-

take a clearly negative line, we would leave room for maneuver by those who wish to keep open the military option. Friedman bought my view which was later reinforced by Dr. Houck. Sievering, as you predicted, was a little more reluctant to get tough but he also was fully cooperative when the issue was posed clearly.

It goes without saying that I am very grateful for the tipoff contained in your letter.

Best regards,

B.H.

William H. Gleysteen, Jr.
Deputy Chief of Mission

SECRET