

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MESSAGE CENTER

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US/IRAN

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MULT
ACTION

DISTR

- CJCS
- DJCS
- SJCS(02)
- J3(14)
- J5(02)
- SAGA(01)
- SECDEF(07)
- SECDEF: ASD:ISA(10)
- ASD:LA(01)
- ATSD:AE(01)
- DP&E(01)
- ASD:PA(01)
- DIA: :DIA(15)
- NMIC
- CMC WASH DC
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- CSAF WASH DC
- CNO WASH DC
- CSA WASH DC
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RR RUEHC RUFNPS

DE RUQMHR #1232 0381230

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R 071220Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1178

INFO RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 3296

BT

UNCLAS TEHRAN 1232

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, TGEN, IR

SUBJ: NUCLEAR POWER: COMMENTS OF HEAD OF ATOMIC ENERGY
ORGANIZATION OF IRAN (AEOI)

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE IN TEHRAN FEBRUARY 6, THE HEAD OF THE AEOI, DR. AKBAR ETEMAD, SAID THAT IRAN HAS ABANDONED ANY PLANS FOR DOMESTIC NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING FACILITY. INSTEAD, SAID ETEMAD, IRAN WAS NOW EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE REPROCESSING ARRANGEMENTS AT THE BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL LEVEL. HE EXPRESSED SOME DOUBTS, HOWEVER, ON THE FEASIBILITY OF REGIONAL REPROCESSING CENTERS, CITING TECHNICAL, MANAGERIAL AND POLITICAL OBSTACLES.

2. TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF U.S. IRANIAN COOPERATION IN THE NUCLEAR

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FIELD, ETEMAD SAID THAT IRAN IS AWAITING AN INITIATIVE BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION FOR A RESUMPTION IN TALKS ON "THE PURCHASE OF EIGHT U. S. BUILT

NUCLEAR REACTORS." ETEMAD SAID THAT TALKS WITH THE U.S. WERE DISCONTINUED LAST SUMMER PENDING U.S. ELECTIONS. HE SAID THAT "THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS IN PLACE AND WE ARE AWAITING TO SEE WHAT THEIR APPROACH TO NUCLEAR SALES ABROAD IS."

3. WHILE ADDING THAT SAFEGUARDS MAY BE A NEW ELEMENT IN A NEW U.S. POLICY ON NUCLEAR SALES, ETEMAD SAID THAT NEVERTHELESS NO COUNTRY, OR GROUP OF COUNTRIES, "HAS A RIGHT TO DICTATE NUCLEAR POLICY TO ANOTHER." HE PROPOSED INSTEAD THAT THERE BE CLOSER DIALOGUE AMONG SUPPLIERS AND PURCHASERS OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY.

4. ETEMAD SAID THAT CONSTRUCTION OF IRAN'S THIRD AND FOURTH NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS, EACH AT 900 MEGAWATTS, TO BE BUILT BY THE FRENCH, WILL BEGIN SOON AT A SITE 60 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF AHWAZ AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$2 BILLION. HE SAID THE AEOI IS EXPLORING VARIOUS FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF ITS REMAINING REACTORS, INCLUDING OIL BARTER AND SUPPLIER CREDITS.

5. IN MEETING ON FEBRUARY 7 WITH ETEMAD (DR. ZUCKER/ORNL TEAM AND EMBASSY SCIENCE ATTACHE), HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY FOR IRAN TO HAVE AN ASSURED LONG-TERM FUEL SUPPLY CONNECTED WITH ANY FUTURE NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR PURCHASES. ETEMAD ALSO SPOKE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A "GLOBAL" VIEW OF NUCLEAR POWER, WHICH HE FELT WAS THUS FAR LACKING. ETEMAD CITED ESPECIALLY THE NEED FOR MORE "ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS" IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE.

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