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Department of State

CN 1526

**TELEGRAM**

INDICATE:

- COLLECT
- CHARGE TO

E.O. 11652:  
TAGS:  
SUBJECT:

XGDS-1  
MNUC, KS  
FRENCH ARMS AND NUCLEAR-RELATED SALES  
TO ROK.

7 MAR 75 6:35PM

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY

~~AMB~~  
DCM  
POL  
D/CHRON

~~INDEX~~

SECRET SEOUL 1526

**NODIS** ✓

1. I HAD AN EXTENDED DISCUSSION WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR LANDY (PROTECT SOURCE) ON FRENCH SALE OF EXOCET AND FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT TO ROKG. LANDY WAS CONSIDERABLY OPEN AND FRANK ON THESE SALES, INCLUDING SOME OF HIS OWN MISGIVINGS.
2. EXOCET SALE: LANDY SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON SALE OF EXOCET BEGAN ABOUT 1-½ YEARS AGO. HE PERSONALLY WAS OPPOSED TO SALE AND HAD DISCUSSED IT WITH SENIOR US MILITARY OFFICERS AT THAT TIME. FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC INITIALLY, BUT ROKG PRESSED AHEAD AND FINALLY AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE REACHED DURING VISIT OF FRENCH DELEGATION TO ARMED FORCES DAY OCTOBER 1974.

DRAFTED BY:  
AMB:RLSNEIDER/MAM

DRAFTING DATE TEL. EXT.  
3/7/75 4200

APPROVED BY:  
AMB - RICHARD L. SNEIDER

CLEARANCES:  
POL: PCLEVELAND

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3. LANDY STATED THAT FRENCH, PARTICULARLY AT HIS URGING, HAD RECEIVED SPECIFIC ASSURANCES THAT EXOCET WOULD BE USED ONLY FOR "DEFENSIVE" PURPOSES. NEVERTHELESS, HE STILL HAS DOUBTS ABOUT DESIRABILITY OF SALE. PRESENT STATUS IS THAT CONTRACT HAS BEEN SIGNED, BUT IS NOT YET RATIFIED BY ROKG. ADDITIONALLY, ROKG STILL HAS NOT ARRANGED FOR FINANCING OF EX DOWN PAYMENT.

4. IN ARGUING MERITS OF FRENCH SALE OF EXOCET, ROKG OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG P'IL, HAVE TAKEN POSITION THAT ROKG CAN NO LONGER DEPEND ON US AS SOLE SOURCE OF ARMS SUPPLY AND MUST TURN TO THIRD COUNTRIES. KOREANS HAVE TOLD FRENCH THAT, NOT ONLY HAS US MILITARY ASSISTANCE DECLINED, BUT US HAS PROVED RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE SOME MODERN WEAPONS AND THEREFORE ROK MUST ACT UNILATERALLY. KOREANS HAVE ALSO MENTIONED AS JUSTIFICATION CONCERN THAT CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER PRESSURES WILL RESULT IN FURTHER CUTBACK MILITARY AID AND / EVENTUALLY FORCE WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES AND KOREA MUST LOOK TO THIRD COUNTRIES NOW AS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE. LANDY CONCLUDES THAT EXOCET SALE IS THEREFORE SYMPTOMATIC OF BROADER KOREAN MOVE. HE FURTHER ADDED THAT DECISION MADE PERSONALLY BY PRESIDENT PARK, WHO INITIATED DISCUSSIONS THROUGH MND SUH. WITH FRENCH GOVERNMENT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO ~~BY XXXXXXXXX~~

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LANDY MENTIONED THAT LINK OF EXOCET AND AIR BUS SALES WAS MADE BY FRENCH COMMERCIAL AGENTS INVOLVED OVER HIS STRENUOUS OBJECTIONS.

5. NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES: LANDY CONFIRMED THAT FRENCH ARE INVOLVED IN SEVERAL PROJECTS WITH ROKG IN NUCLEAR FIELD. AND FABRICATING WERE SPECIFICALLY. NUCLEAR REPROCESSING/ PLANT SALE WAS MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY. PLANTS ARE ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ TO BE USED FOR EXPERIMENTATION.

6. LANDY STRESSED THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS FULLY AWARE OF RISKS AND PROBLEMS AND IS SEEKING TO ACT RESPONSIBLY AND CAUTIOUSLY IN THIS FIELD. FRENCH HAVE INSISTED NOT ONLY ON STANDARD SAFEGUARD ARRANGEMENTS TO IAEA, BUT ON MORE EXTENSIVE BILATERAL SAFEGUARD ARRANGEMENTS. FRENCH HAVE ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ RECEIVED PRIVATE LETTER COMMITTING ROKG TO USE NUCLEAR MATERIALS ONLY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL PROVIDING THAT SUPPLY / ~~XXXXX~~ WOULD BE CUT OFF IF THERE IS ANY INDICATION OF MILITARY USE. ADDITIONALLY, AGREEMENT IS OPEN ENDED IN THAT ROKG HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARD ARRANGEMENTS IN ~~ENR~~ FUTURE IF DEEMED NECESSARY BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT. LANDY SUGGESTED THAT WE MIGHT REQUEST IN PARIS TEXT OF BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS, BUT REQUESTED THAT HE BE PERSONALLY PROTECTED AND NOT REFERRED TO IN ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

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7. COMMENT: I HAVE IMPRESSION FROM DISCUSSION WITH LANDY THAT AT LEAST HE PERSONALLY WOULD SUPPORT BILATERAL ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN USG AND FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTROLS OVER SALES TO ROKG IN BOTH AREAS OF ADVANCED WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR MATERIALS, PROVIDING THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT LEFT FRENCH OPEN TO COMPETE FOR LANDY CONTRACTS IN ACCEPTABLE AREAS. HOWEVER, ~~KEK~~ MAY NOT BE REFLECTING FULLY THE VIEWS OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT, WHICH UP TO NOW SEEMS MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO ROKG EFFORTS TO OBTAIN WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT FROM THIRD COUNTRY SOURCES WHEN US CHANNELS APPEAR CLOSED.

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