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TELEGRAM

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DEPT. PLS PASS CINCPAC FOR POLAD FOR ASST. SECRETARY HABIB
AND AMBASSADOR SNEIDER - CINCPAC HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

F.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC PARM KS FR
SUBJECT: ROK NUCLEAR REPROCESSING

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT SUMMARY RECORD KOREA-UNITED STATES
DISCUSSIONS HELD JAN 22-23, 1976 REFERRED TO SEPTEL.

REGIN. QUOTE:

1. INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH REGARD TO NUCLEAR ENERGY BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK) AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (U.S.) WAS HELD FROM 22 JANUARY TO 23 JANUARY 1976 IN SEOUL. THE KOREAN SIDE WAS HEADED BY DR. HYUNG SUP CHOI, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND THE UNITED STATES SIDE BY MR. MYRON R. KRATZER, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS. THE TWO SIDES NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT BROAD AND INTENSIVE COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD HAS BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE 1956, AND HAS ENABLED THE ROK TO ESTABLISH PROGRAMS FOR THE APPLICATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY TO THE GENERATION OF ELECTRIC POWER AND OTHER PEACEFUL USES.
2. THE KOREAN REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED THAT THE ROK IS NOW, DUE TO US CONCERN, RECONSIDERING WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF AN EXPERIMENTAL REPROCESSING FACILITY FROM FRANCE AND THAT THE FINAL DECISION ON THE MATTER WILL BE MADE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES E LAHIGUERA
DATE/CASE ID: 09 MAY 2005 200403745 SECRET

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ON THE BASIS OF THE ROK/US DISCUSSIONS.

3. THE US REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE ROK DECISION TO RECONSIDER THE ACQUISITION OF THE REPROCESSING FACILITY, AND INDICATED THAT A DECISION NOT TO PROCEED WITH THIS PROJECT, IF TAKEN, WOULD FACILITATE STRENGTHENED COOPERATION WITH ROKG IN PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. THEY STRESSED THAT, WHILE NO COMMITMENTS OR ASSURANCES COULD BE MADE, THEY WERE PREPARED ON THIS OCCASION TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL AREAS FOR SUCH BROADER COOPERATION WHICH, FOLLOWING A DEFINITE DECISION BY THE ROKG TO CANCEL ITS PLANS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A REPROCESSING CAPABILITY, COULD BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER DETAILED DEFINITION AND, WHERE FEASIBLE, POSITIVE ACTION. THEY ALSO STRESSED THE DESIRABILITY OF AN EARLY DECISION BY THE ROKG.

4. THE AREAS OF POTENTIAL COOPERATION SO DISCUSSED ARE IDENTIFIED BELOW, TOGETHER WITH A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THEIR POSSIBLE CONTENT AND QUALIFICATIONS.

A. IMPROVED COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION OF US-ROK PEACEFUL NUCLEAR COOPERATION.

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ROK NOTED THAT FUTURE COOPERATION IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD COULD BE IMPROVED AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS AVOIDED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MECHANISMS FOR BETTER COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION TOWARD THIS END. THE US REPRESENTATIVES INDICATED THE US WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR AND OTHER ENERGY TECHNOLOGY MATTERS, COMPRISED OF SENIOR US AND ROKG OFFICIALS. THE US REPRESENTATIVES ALSO INDICATED A READINESS TO CONSIDER POSTING IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN SEOUL A SCIENCE ATTACHE, QUALIFIED IN THE NUCLEAR ENERGY FIELD. SUCH AN ATTACHE COULD ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROMOTION OF US-ROKG COOPERATION IN OTHER SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL FIELDS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

B. COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR REACTOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.

THE US REPRESENTATIVES POINTED OUT THAT TO A LARGE DEGREE INFORMATION AND KNOW-HOW IN THESE FIELDS IS IN THE POSSESSION OF PRIVATE US FIRMS AND IS NOT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE USG. HOWEVER,

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THE US WOULD ENDORSE AND ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE ROK, INCLUDING THE KOREAN ATOMIC ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, AND PRIVATE FIRMS IN THE U.S. IN ADDITION, IT COULD ALSO ARRANGE FOR ON THE JOB TRAINING ASSIGNMENTS FOR QUALIFIED ROK SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS AT US ERDA LABORATORIES WHERE WORK OF RELEVANCE TO COMMERCIAL REACTOR DESIGN AND OPERATION IS IN PROGRESS. THE EXTENSION OF CREDITS FOR THE PURCHASE OF SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT ITEMS, SUCH AS REACTOR SIMULATOR FOR REFRESHER TRAINING OF REACTOR OPERATORS, IS THE PROVINCE OF US EXPORT-IMPORT BANK, WHICH MUST CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR SUCH CREDIT WITHIN ITS ESTABLISHED LOAN CRITERIA. HOWEVER, OTHER USG AGENCIES COULD ACTIVELY EXPLORE WITH EXIM BANK POSSIBLE SUPPORT IN APPROPRIATE CASES.

C. SISTER LABORATORY RELATIONSHIP.

THE FORMER SISTER LABORATORY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KAERI AND ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY (ANL) COULD BE PROMPTLY REACTIVATED. UNDER SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT, ANL COULD SERVE AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR TECHNICAL ASSIGNMENTS AND OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION INVOLVING NOT ONLY ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY ITSELF, BUT OTHER US ERDA FACILITIES AS WELL.

D. NUCLEAR FUEL FABRICATION.

THE ROK REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED THEIR KEEN INTEREST IN THE AREA OF FUEL FABRICATION. THE US REPS EXPRESSED FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE ROKG CONCLUSION THAT FUEL FABRICATION IS A POTENTIALLY ATTRACTIVE ACTIVITY TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN KOREA. FUEL FABRICATION TECHNOLOGY IS THE PROPERTY OF US COMMERCIAL FIRMS, BUT THE USG COULD ENDORSE AND ENCOURAGE COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THIS FIELD. THE USG REPRESENTATIVES STRESSED THAT THE U.S. WISHES TO AVOID, IN ANY SUCH COOPERATION, INTERFERENCE WITH ARRANGEMENTS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE BY THE ROKG WITH THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS OF FIRMS.

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DEPT. PLS PASS CINCPAC FOR POLAD FOR ASST. SECRETARY HABIB
AND AMBASSADOR SNEIDER - CINCPAC HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E. REPROCESSING SERVICES.

THE US REPS INDICATED AGREEMENT WITH THE ROKG CONCLUSION THAT REPROCESSING SERVICES FOR KOREA'S NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM, IF AND WHEN NEEDED, COULD BEST BE PROVIDED THROUGH A MULTI-NATIONAL FACILITY SERVING REGIONAL NEEDS. THEY ALSO AGREED THAT KOREA SHOULD PLAY A MEANINGFUL ROLE IN SUCH A FACILITY. TOWARD THIS END, IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT KOREA SHOULD SEEK TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THE IAEA GENERIC STUDY OF MULTI-NATIONAL CENTERS, AS WELL AS WITH ANY REGIONAL STUDY FOR THE FAR EAST WHICH MIGHT BE LATER ESTABLISHED. THE U.S. EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS REQUIRED TO ENSURE RESPONSIBLE ROK PARTICIPATION IN ANY FUTURE REGIONAL FACILITY COULD BEST BE EVALUATED AND UNDERTAKEN AS CONCRETE PLANS FOR SUCH A FACILITY EVOLVE. THE U.S. REPS INDICATED THAT THE U.S. COULD COOPERATE IN PROVIDING RELEVANT TRAINING, WHEN REQUIRED, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN AGREED MULTI-NATIONAL ARRANGEMENT, AND SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE U.S. AT THE OUTSET, THE NECESSARY TRAINING WOULD BE RELATED TO ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF REPROCESSING ALTERNATIVES.

F. REACTOR SAFETY AND REGULATORY COOPERATION.

THE U.S. INDICATED THAT COOPERATION IN THE REACTOR SAFETY AND

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REGULATORY FIELD, INCLUDING A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT IN THIS FIELD, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVE THE AGREEMENT OF THE US NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WHICH IS AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY OF THE US GOVERNMENT.

G. GENERAL AGREEMENT FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION.

THE ROK REPS REITERATED THEIR CONTINUING INTEREST IN A GENERAL AGREEMENT FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THE US REPS INDICATED THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT COULD BE CONSIDERED, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT NO SPECIFIC US RESOURCES ARE COMMITTED BY SUCH AGREEMENTS AND THAT EACH PARTY'S PARTICIPATION REMAINS ITS OWN FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

H. FUTURE MEETING.

THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT PREPARATIONS COULD BE PROMPTLY MADE TO MEET IN THE SPRING OF 1976 TO PURSUE THE OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN THESE DISCUSSIONS.
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