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ACTION SS-25

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.  
 Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny ( )  Declassify  
Date 7/16/04 Exemption: \_\_\_\_\_

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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P R 120915Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2231  
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

S E C R E T TAIPEI 209

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, TW, NL  
SUBJECT: TAIWAN'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN REPROCESSING

REF: STATE 4532

1. AS INSTRUCTED, DCM CALLED ON MOFA VICE MINISTER FRED CHIEN, JANUARY 11, AND CONVEYED POINTS CONTAINED PARA 2, REFTEL. T.K. CHU SAT IN AND TOOK NOTES.

2. CHIEN APPEARED BEWILDERED BY DCM'S PRESENTATION, AND HE WAS OBVIOUSLY HARD PRESSED TO FORMULATE A COHERENT RESPONSE. HE WONDERED OUT LOUD WHETHER THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION IN THE TIME-FRAME OF INER'S ALLEGED NEGOTIATIONS WITH COMPRIMO (A NAME WHICH BOTH CHIEN AND CHU CLAIMED WAS TOTALLY UNKNOWN TO THEM). CHU SAID HE SEEMED TO REMEMBER VAGUELY SOME MENTION OF INER BEING IN TOUCH WITH AN AMERICAN FIRM WHICH IN TURN WAS IN CONTACT WITH A EUROPEAN FIRM, MAYBE DUTCH, BUT THIS WAS QUITE SOME TIME AGO -- AND CERTAINLY NOT IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS. DCM REITERATED THAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT CONTINUING COMPRIMO DEALINGS WITH INER SUBSEQUENT TO OUR RECEIPT OF THE PREMIER'S ASSURANCES OF SEPTEMBER 17.

3. CHIEN, RECOVERING HIS COMPOSURE, THEN SAID HE WOULD INFORM

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THE FONMIN IMMEDIATELY AND ALSO LOOK INTO THE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION. HE PROMISED TO GET BACK TO DCM ON THE MATTER ASAP. CHIEN FOLLOWED UP WITH REPEATED

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PROTESTATIONS OF THE PREMIER'S GOOD FAITH, ~~ASSERTING~~ THAT THE GROC HAD AN UNTARNISHED RECORD OF HONEST DEALING WITH THE USG. HE DECLARED THAT THE PREMIER'S ASSURANCES WERE CLEAR: THAT THE GROC -- AND THAT MEANT ALL GROC OFFICIALS, "INCLUDING SCIENTISTS" -- WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN ANY ACTIVITIES RELATED TO REPROCESSING. THERE COULD BE NO QUESTION, HE MAINTAINED, ABOUT THE PREMIER'S INTENTIONS ON THIS MATTER.

4. CHIEN DID NOT QUESTION AT ANY TIME THE SOURCE OF OUR INFORMATION, BUT HE ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE THE NAME OR NAMES OF ANY CHINESE OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE COMPRIMO/INER NEGOTIATIONS. DCM LIMITED HIS RESPONSE TO THE OBSERVATION THAT THE ONLY INFORMATION HE HAD TO CONVEY AT THIS TIME WAS THAT CONTAINED IN THE PRESENTATION HE HAD MADE. CHIEN DID NOT PRESS FURTHER AND CLOSED CONVERSATION WITH ASSURANCE THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER PROMPTLY.

5. CHIEN WAS OBVIOUSLY SHAKEN AND DID NOT APPEAR TO BE FEIGNING LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF COMPRIMO AFFAIR. UNLESS HE IS A BETTER ACTOR THAN WE REALIZE, WE WOULD JUDGE HIM TO BE UNWITTING OF INER'S CONTINUED INTEREST IN REPROCESSING.  
UNGER

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