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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld,

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P 270810Z DEC 77 FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5898

S E C R E T TAIPEI 7631

DECAPTIONED

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3 TAGS: MNUC, PARM, TW

SUBJECT: THE TAIWAN RESEARCH REACTOR (TRR)

SINTE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW Retain Class'n 🛘 Change to ____ Declassify in part and excise as shown EO 12958, 25X(6)()()() FO(4 Declassify After US/ROC ogreement public With concurrence (not)(obtained)

PS by Date 5/11(0)

REFS: (A) STATE 305275 (B) STATE 305274 (C) STATE 262131

1. ON 27 DECEMBER 1977, DCM ACCOMPANIED BY ECON OFFICER SIMMONS CALLED ON MOFA VICE MINISTER FRED CHIEN TO CONVEY REFTEL A RESPONSE TO THE ROC REGARDING RE-START THE TRR. DCM ALSO DISCUSSED REFTEL B AIDE MEMOIRE AND PROVIDED CHIEN WITH AN INITIALED COPY. THE MEETING WAS CORDIAL,

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FOLLOWING DCM'S REMARKS, CHIEN MADE FIVE POINTS. FIRST INDICATED THAT HE WAS UNCLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT THE ROC WILL BE "FINANCIALLY AND TECHNICALLY" RESPONSIBLE FOR PACKING AND SHIPPING TRR SPEN FUEL. DCM POINTED OUT AIDE MEMOIRE LANGUAGE WHICH SEEMED TO CLARIFY THIS POINT. CHIEN EXPRESSED DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THE ROC HAD ANY SHIP SECRET

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CAPABLE OF TRANSPORTING NUCLEAR SPENT FUELS. HE REMARKED THAT ASSUMING ROC WAS WILLING TO PAY FOR THE PACKING AND SHIPPING, THEY WOULD WELCOME U.S. ASSISTANCE ON LOCATING

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5. IN ANTICIPATION OF CHIEN'S EARLY RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSALS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSES TO HIS QUESTIONS - SPECIFICALLY, WHAT U.S. RESEARCH LABORATORIES WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE LOW ENRICHED URANIUM PROJECT, WHETHER THE U.S. WILL BE ABLE TO HELP LOCATE A SUITABLE VESSEL FOR SHIPPING TRR SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL AND WHAT THE ULTIMATE DISPOSITION OF THIS FUEL MIGHT BE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE REMIND THE DEPARTMENT THAT INER'S PLUTONIUM HAS BEEN PACKED FOR SHIPMENT BUT THAT WE HAVE YET TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ITS REMOVAL FROM TAIWAN.

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