

Message Text

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71-60

ACTION OES-06

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8411

INFO US MISSION IAEA VIENNA 633

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5376

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, JA

SUBJ: MULTINATIONAL REPROCESSING CENTER CONCEPT

REF: A) STATE 84303: B) TOKYO 5292

1. SCICOUNS DISCUSSED PLANS FOR HOLDING REPROCESSING MEETING IN TOKYO WITH OTSUKA. MORE EXPLICIT DETAILS ON TIME FRAME FOR HOLDING MEETING WERE DEVELOPED. ABSOLUTE LATEST THAT NPT CAN BE RATIFIED IN LOWER HOUSE OF DIET IS APRIL 24, UNLESS CURRENT DIET SESSION IS EXTENDED. OTSUKA REQUIRES MINIMUM OF ONE MONTH AFTER LOWER HOUSE RATIFICATION OF NPT BEFORE REPROCESSING MEETING CAN BE HELD. THEREFORE, LAST WEEK IN MAY WOULD BE ROUGHLY THE APPROPRIATE TIME TO HOLD MEETING. HOWEVER, OTSUKA EMPHASIZES THAT HE HAS NOT YET OBTAINED CONCURRENCE OF OTHER INVOLVED AGENCIES IN HOLDING MEETING, THAT HIS ACCEPTANCE OF USG PROPOSAL WAS QUOTE, PERSONAL, UNQUOTE, AND THAT HE IS NOT YET ABLE TO SPECIFY EXACT TIME FOR MEETING.

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN EXAMINING LATEST PROSPECTS FOR NPT RATIFICATION AND THEY ARE NOT ENCOURAGING. SEE REFTEL B. FOR DETAILS.

3. OTSUKA ALSO EXPRESSED WITH SOME ELOQUENCE HIS DESIRE TO

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SEE JAPAN JOIN NPT COUNTRIES AND THUS ENTER NEW PHASE OF

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN WHICH JAPAN WOULD BE FULL PARTNER
IN ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT FORA. HE REITERATED HIS
INTENTION TO INVOLVE MOFA MORE ACTIVELY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY
IN FOLLOWING NUCLEAR MATTERS AFTER NPT RATIFICATION: PHYSICAL
PROTECTION, URANIUM ENRICHMENT, AND FUEL CYCLE PROBLEMS.

4. WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED BY OTSUKA'S COMMENTS IN
WASHINGTON CONCERNING LOCATING REPROCESSING CENTER IN JAPAN, SINCE
HE AND OTHERS HAVE RAISED SAME POINT ON NUMBER OF PREVIOUS
OCCASIONS, AND EACH TIME EMBOFFS HAVE TAKEN VIGOROUS LINE
SAME AS USED BY DEPT./ACDA. WE CONCLUDE THAT THIS IS NOT
MISCONCEPTION ON OTSUKA'S PART BUT RATHER ATTEMPT TO REMIND
USG REPEATELY THAT GOJ IS NOT WILLING TO OFFER UP SITE
IN JAPAN FOR REPROCESSING CENTER, THEREBY INSURING THAT
WHEN CONCEPT PROCEEDS INTO DETAILED STUDY PHASE, A SITE
IN JAPAN WILL NOT BE AMONG THE OPTIONS.
HODGSON

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