SECRET STATE 264607

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR SMITH

E.O. 12065: RDS 10/9/99 (HORNBLOW, MICHAEL) NEA/PAB

TAGS: IAEA, MNUC, PAR, TECH, PK, NG

SUBJECT: EKLUND'S TRIP TO NIGER

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT
QUOTE
P 100111Z OCT 79 ZZF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
INFO WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY 2809

SECRET STATE 264607

NODIS

1. (S-ENTIRE TEXT).

SECRET

PAGE 02   STATE  264607

2. EKLUND HAS TOLD US EMBASSY OFFICERS IN VIENNA ABOUT HIS CONVERSATIONS IN NIGER WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE AND MINISTER OF MINES MOUNKAILA MAROUNA ON NIGER'S URANIUM EXPORT POLICY. THE MINISTER EXPLAINED TO IKLUND THAT SINCE URANIUM IS NIGER'S ONLY SIGNIFICANT EXPORT, THE GON HAD TO BE FREE TO EXPORT TO WHOMEVERWAS INTERESTED, AND THIS COULD NOT RPT NOT RESTRICT ITS MARKET BY JOINING THE NPT. THE MINISTER ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GONHADMADE THE DECISION TO REQUIRE SAFEGUARDS ON ANY SALES TO NNWS. EKLUND SAID HE PURSUED THE MATTER BY ASKING WHAT THE GON
WOULD DO IF A NNWS BUYER OFFERED TWICE THE MARKET PRICE FOR URANIUM FREE OF SAFEGUARDS. THE MINISTER RESPONDED THAT THIS BECAME A MORAL ISSUE AND THAT THE GON WOULD MAINTAIN ITS POLICY, BUT THAT NIGER WOULD NEED HELP FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO SUSTAIN SUCH A POSITION. AT EKLUND'S PROMPTING, HE THEN EXPANDED ON THE LATTER POINT BY NOTING THAT NIGER PLANNED TO ESTABLISH A MISSION IN VIENNA, AND WOULD LIKE: (1) A DESIGNATED SEAT ON THE IAEA BOARD, SINCE IT WAS AN IMPORTANT URANIUM PRODUCER AND MORE DESERVING THAN EGYPT; (2) A STAFF POSITION IN THE SECRETARIAT, WHICH EKLUND SAID HE INDICATED COULD BE ARRANGED; (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE AGENCY; AND (4) THE AGENCY'S GOOD OFFICES IN FACILITATING BILATERAL ASSISTANCE.

3. IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE, EKLUND WAS TOLD THAT FOR NOW NIGER WOULD STAY OUT OF THE NPT, BUT THAT GON WOULD REVIEW ITS POSITION AFTER THE REVIEW CONFERENCE NEXT YEAR. PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED GON DECISION TO REQUIRE SAFEGUARDS ON URANIUM TO ANY NNWS.

4. EKLUND SAID HE COULD NOT RPT NOT LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT PAST URANIUM SHIPMENTS TO LIBYA, BUT HE WAS ASSURED SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 264607

SHIPMENTS HAD CEASED AND WOULD NOT RPT NOT RESUME UNTIL THE SAFEGUARDS ISSUE WAS RESOLVED. HE SAID THE GON CONFIRMED THAT TWO SHIPMENTS OF 50 TONS EACH HAD BEEN MADE TO PAKISTAN. (COMMENT: 100 TONS WAS LATER CONFIRMED BY GRUEMM TO BE THE AMOUNT CARRIED ON THE AGENCY INVENTORY FOR PAKISTAN. HE SAID THIS WAS THE WEIGHT OF THE URANIUM, AND THUS SOMewhat LESS THAN THE TONNAGE OF YELLOW CAKE. AMOUNT HAD BEEN VERIFIED ON THE SPOT IN PAKISTAN IN JUNE AND WOULD BE AGAIN IN OCTOBER. END COMMENT.) EKLUND SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE ISSUE OF THE NEGOTIATION OF A LIBYAN SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT IN A DISCUSSION WITH THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR THIS WEEK. VANCE. END QUOTE

VANCE
SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>