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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: MNUC, PK  
SUBJECT: REPROCESSING PLANT

1. ON AUGUST 20 I MET FRENCH AMB LEGOURRIEREC TO GET READOUT ON HIS DELIVERY OF GISCARD LETTER TO MINSTATE AGHA SHAHI AUG 19.

2. LEGOURRIEREC READ ME PORTIONS OF ENGLISH VERSION OF GISCARD'S LENGTHY LETTER WHICH LEGOURRIEREC TERMED THE MOST EXTRAORDINARILY OBSCURE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS HE HAS EVER ENCOUNTERED. IT IS FULL OF PIOUS SENTIMENTS OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONTINUED COOPERATION IN MANY FIELDS, INCLUDING NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION, BUT IT DOES NOT MENTION THE CONTRACT FOR THE REPROCESSING PLANT. THERE ARE TWO REFERENCES TO REPROCESSING:

(A) A BRIEF RECITAL OF THE FRENCH PUBLIC STATEMENT OF LATE 1976 STOPPING EXPORT OF REPROCESSING PLANTS AND MATERIALS (BUT CONVENIENTLY IGNORING FRENCH STATEMENT AT THAT TIME EXEMPTING THE PLANT FOR PAKISTAN FROM THAT BAN) AND (B) A MURKY REFERENCE TO INFCE STUDIES WHICH IT IS HOPE WILL IN TIME LEAD TO SATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS OF REPROCESSING PROBLEMS.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 09 MAR 2007 200502061

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3. LEGOURRIEREC SAID AGHA SHAHI (SHAHNAKAZ AND NIAZ NAIK ALSO PRESENT) AFTER REPEATED READINGS OF THE LETTER OBSERVED THAT THE ABSENCE OF ANY MENTION OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE PLANT MUST MEAN THAT GISCARD WAS REFUSING TO ACCEDE TO GENERAL ZIA'S REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF FRENCH DECISION TO CANCEL, TO WHICH INTERPRETATION LEGOURRIEREC ASSENTED, THE PAK SIDE FURTHER ASSERTED THAT GOP COULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES AGREE TO ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN INFCE STUDIES AND THE FUTURE OF THE REPROCESSING PLANT.

4. LEGOURRIEREC IS CERTAIN THE PAKS UNDERSTAND THAT CANCELLATION OF THE PLANT IS A FIRM FRENCH DECISION. HOWEVER, NEITHER HE NOR I ARE CLEAR ABOUT THE NEXT MOVE. LEGOURRIEREC THINKS HE MAY BE CALLED FOR A MEETING WITH GENERAL ZIA WHERE HE WILL HAVE A HARD JOB PROVIDING ORAL EXEGESIS OF THE ARTFULLY OBSCURE LETTER. HE STILL PREDICTS AHSRP GOP RETALIATION INCLUDING CANCELLATION OF SAVIEM TRUCK DEAN AND POSSIBLY RECALL OF PAK AMB FROM PARIS. HE EXPRESSED POLITE HOPE THAT USG WILL NOT PREMATURELY UNDERTAKE CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS THAT RUN RISK OF PUBLIC SURFACING OF FRENCH CANCELLATION IN WESTERN PRESS. I ASSURED HIM THAT WE WOULD NOT EMBARK ON RISKY CONSULTATIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSION WITH GOP. WE AGREED THAT PAKS SHOULD BE GIVEN CHANCE TO MAKE THE CANCELLATION PUBLIC IN MANNER OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING, WHICH WE THOUGHT MIGHT BEGIN IN NEXT FEW DAYS WITH GINGERLY EXPOSURE IN EDITORIAL OF SOME ELEMENTS OF THE ISSUE.

5. I GAVE LEGOURRIEREC BRIEF SUMMARY OF OUR RECENT TALKS WITH SHAHI IN NEW YORK AND HERE IN WHICH I TOOK IT TO BE A GOOD SIGN THAT THE PAKS ARE BARGAINING OVER TERMS (WHAT KIND OF ASSURANCES IF ANY USG WILL REQUIRE BEFORE WE

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NORMALIZE US ASSISTANCE) RATHER THAN MAKING THREATS OR  
DISPUTING US NONPROLIFERATION POLICIES.

6. LEGOURRIERE ASKED MY VIEW OF RUMORS (APPARENTLY  
STARTED IN INDIAN PRESS BUT KEPT ALIVE HERE BY SOV AND  
EE EMBOFFS) THAT THE PRC WILL BUILD A REPROCESSING PLANT  
FOR PAKS IF FRANCE REFUSES. I TOLD HIM THAT PRC AMB  
HAS TOLD ME THE PRC HAS NO SUCH PLANT ITSELF AND THEREFORE  
LACKS CAPABILITY OF BUILDING ONE FOR PAKS. I WILL SEE  
CHINESE AMB IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO SEE IF HE WILL EXPAND ON  
THAT STATEMENT. HUMMEL

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