

December 10, 1975 US Department of State Cable, ROK Nuclear Reprocessing

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Summary:

The U.S. Ambassador to Korea Richard Sneider reports that he informed the South Korean Deputy Prime Minister of the "very adverse implications" of South Korea's planned purchase of a French reprocessing plant.

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12 AT DECEMBER 16 MEETING WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NAM. I REVIEWED WITH HIM MAJOR POINTS IN MY DEMARCHE TO PRIME MINISTER DECEMBER 6 ON FRENCH PROCESSING PLANT. I EMPHASIZED FUR HIM GREAT IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THIS ISSUE AT HIGH LEVELS USG AND BROADER STAKE INVOLVED IN US-ROK RELATIONS.

2. NAM SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN HIGH LEVEL MEETING CALLED BY PRIME MINISTER DECEMBER 9 ON THIS ISSUE, BUT THAT HE UNFORTU-NATELY COULD NOT ATTEND DUE TO REQUIRED ATTENDANCE AT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. NAM THOUGHT THAT THE REACTION TO OUR POSITION WAS NOT TOO GOOD. AFTER I WENT OVER AGAIN WITH HIM VERY ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS OF KOREAN REFUSAL TO CANCEL FRENCH CONTRACT. HE SAID HE HOULD TRY TO SEE PHIME MINISTER GIVEN SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM. SMEIDER



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