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SENSITIVE

PAGE 1 - 531

SITUATION LISTING

DATE 12/12/83//346

SITUATION: PRES MSGS
SUBJECT CATAGORY: OUT

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:
MESSAGE:

HCE319
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DE RUEHC #2387 2460713
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 030412Z SEP 83
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE OOOO
BT

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ STATE 252387

E.O. 12356. DECL: OADR

TAGS: US, IT, NUC

SUBJECT: LETTER TO CRAXI ON COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR
SAFEGUARDS: S/S NO. 8326566

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. PRESIDENT REAGAN ON AUGUST 19 SIGNED LETTERS TO EIGHT HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT REGARDING COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS.
3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER FOLLOWING CONFIDENTIAL LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER CRAXI.

BEGIN QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

ON MARCH 31ST, I WROTE PRIME MINISTER FANFANI ABOUT COMPREHENSIVE SAFEGUARDS, AND I APPRECIATE HIS CONTRIBUTING HIS IDEAS TO AN EXAMINATION OF WAYS TO BUTTRESS INTERNATIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS. I HAD HOPED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER IN SOME DETAIL AT WILLIAMSBURG, BUT THE AGENDA INCLUDED OTHER ISSUES, BOTH COMPLICATED AND PRESSING, THAT REQUIRED URGENT ATTENTION.

AS I INDICATED EARLIER, I BELIEVE THAT WE MUST TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE STEP TO PREVENT THE FURTHER SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THIS IS A MATTER OF CRITICAL NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERN THAT WE SHARE. IF NUCLEAR WEAPONS SPREAD TO ADDITIONAL REGIONS, THE DELICATE BALANCE OF REGIONAL STABILITY CAN BE UPSET, THE DANGER OF CONFLICT WILL GROW, SECURITY BURDENS WILL INCREASE, AND EVEN PEACEFUL NUCLEAR COOPERATION WILL BE JEOPARDIZED.

UNSAFEGUARDED NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES MANIFESTLY ARE A

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NLRR M08-222#62065
BY RW NARA DATE 11/2/01

3
SENSITIVE

PAGE 1 - 532

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SOURCE OF CONCERN, WHEREVER THEY MAY EXIST. EVEN WHERE THESE ACTIVITIES ARE NOT INTENDED TO SERVE THE PURPOSE OF EXPLOSIVES DEVELOPMENT, THEY INEVITABLY GENERATE SUSPICION.

FOR THIS REASON, WE MUST SEEK TO PERSUADE THE IMPORTING COUNTRIES THAT HALTING THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS A COMMON CAUSE AND THAT THEY SHOULD AGREE TO ACCEPT COMPREHENSIVE SAFEGUARDS. BUT WE NEED TO DO MORE. IT WAS THIS CONCERN WHICH LED ME TO SUGGEST AGREEMENT NOW BY THE MAJOR NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS TO REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE SAFEGUARDS AS A CONDITION OF SIGNIFICANT NEW NUCLEAR SUPPLY COMMITMENTS.

AGREED NUCLEAR RULES OF TRADE, INCLUDING STRONGER SAFEGUARDS AS A CONDITION OF SUPPLY, ARE NEEDED ALSO IF WE ARE TO ENSURE THAT LEGITIMATE COMPETITION FOR NUCLEAR TRADE DOES NOT LEAD TO THE USE OF NON-PROLIFERATION CONDITIONS AS A BARGAINING FACTOR IN PURSUIT OF SALES. THE RESULT COULD ONLY BE AN UNRAVELING OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME DAMAGING TO US ALL.

THE EMERGENCE OF NEW SUPPLIERS ADDS URGENCY TO THE NEED FOR NEW COOPERATIVE ACTION. WE MUST FIND THE WAY TO CONVINCE THESE COUNTRIES TO ADHERE TO SOUND NORMS FOR THEIR OWN PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR COMMERCE. BUT IF WE ARE TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS, WE MUST AGREE NOW ON STRONGER SAFEGUARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR NUCLEAR TRADE, AND BE PREPARED TO STAND BY THEM. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT PERSONAL PRIORITY OF MINE, JUST AS NON-PROLIFERATION IS A VITAL ARMS CONTROL ISSUE FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

OUR COUNTRIES HAVE A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS AREA. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU TO STRENGTHEN THE FRAMEWORK FOR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITHIN A SOUND AND EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDS REGIME. I SUGGEST AN EARLY MEETING OF OUR REPRESENTATIVES AND THOSE OF THE

OTHER MAJOR SUPPLIER COUNTRIES (INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION) TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND DEVELOP CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR ADVANCING OUR COMMON GOAL. WE AWAIT YOUR VIEWS.

.....SINCERELY,

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4
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PAGE 1 - 533

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.....RONALD REAGAN

HIS EXCELLENCY,
BETTINO CRAXI
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
ROME. END QUOTE.

4. ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY.

5. IN DELIVERING PRESIDENT'S LETTER, FOLLOWING POINTS
SHOULD BE MADE REGARDING THE PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING OF
MAJOR SUPPLIER COUNTRIES:

-- WE WOULD ENVISAGE THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE SMALL
AND CONFIDENTIAL, WITH NO FORMAL AGENDA.

-- ITS MAJOR PURPOSE WOULD BE TO CONSIDER HOW BEST TO
SERVE OUR SHARED NON-PROLIFERATION GOALS, INCLUDING
ESPECIALLY DISCUSSION OF THE PAPERS ON COMPREHENSIVE
SAFEGUARDS THAT WE HAVE ALREADY PROVIDED TO YOU.

-- WE WOULD HOPE TO IDENTIFY AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND
DISAGREEMENT, WHILE CONSIDERING HOW A CONSENSUS COULD
BE FORMED.

-- THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE RICHARD
T. KENNEDY TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES.

-- WE PROPOSE THAT THE MEETING TAKE PLACE IN LATE
NOVEMBER/EARLY DECEMBER, AT A SITE TO BE AGREED UPON
LATER.

-- WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO HOST THIS MEETING IN THE
U.S., OR AT ANY EUROPEAN LOCATION THAT OTHER PARTIES
MIGHT SUGGEST.

-- WE STRONGLY HOPE THAT ITALY WILL PARTICIPATE.

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