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Chief, Records and Declass Div, WHS
Date: 31OCT2024

IMMEDIATE ZYUW RUFHFRAS008 2931708 RODGERS
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O 191701Z OCT 88
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1994 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 3507
INFO COCOM CAPITALS COLLECTIVE

~~SECRET~~ PARIS 35006

STATE FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY WHITEHEAD
AND UNDER SECRETARY DERWINSKI
DEFENSE FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY TAFT
COMMERCE FOR SECRETARY VERITY
BEIJING FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCALLISTER

STATE PASS NSC FOR TY COB
ALSO PASS TO USTR FOR AMB. SMITH

~~E.O. 12958 - DECL. ONDR~~

TAGS: ETTC, KSTC, KSCA, COCOM, ETRD, FR, CH
SUBJECT: FRENCH CONCERN WITH U.S. APPROACH ON CHINESE SPACE
LAUNCHERS

REF: PARIS 31298

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DURING THE OCTOBER 17 EXPORT CONTROL BILATERALS, THE ECONOMIC DIRECTOR AT THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY, JEAN-BERNARD OUVRIEU, SAID THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS NOT PLEASED THAT THE USG HAD MADE A "UNILATERAL" ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING TALKS WITH THE PRC ON SPACE LAUNCHERS BEFORE BRINGING THE MATTER TO COCOM FOR DISCUSSION. OUVRIEU SAID THAT THE GOF WANTS ANY PROPOSED LAUNCH OF A WESTERN SATELLITE BY THE CHINESE TO BE CONSIDERED BY COCOM, ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, AND JUDGED ON ITS OWN MERITS.

3. AMBASSADOR WENDT EXPLAINED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO BRING AN ISSUE TO COCOM UNLESS THERE IS SOMETHING CONCRETE TO DISCUSS. IN ANY EVENT, THE USG HAD HAD TO ACT ON HUGHES' APPLICATION TO EXPORT A COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE. HE SAID THAT THE USG HAS NEVER CONSIDERED ISSUING A LICENSE WITHOUT COCOM APPROVAL. GIVEN THIS, HE SAID THAT THE U.S. APPROACH ON CHINESE SPACE LAUNCHERS SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS UNILATERAL.

4. AS REGARDS THE TRADE ASPECTS, OUVRIEU SAID THAT THEY MUST BE CONSIDERED INDEPENDENTLY OF COCOM WHICH SHOULD FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY ON SECURITY ASPECTS. PATRICK LEFAS, A SENIOR TRADE MINISTRY OFFICIAL, ADDED THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ISSUES CONSIDERED BY COCOM, THE GOF IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED BY THE TRADE POLICY AND INDUSTRIAL ASPECTS OF USING CHINESE LAUNCHERS FOR WESTERN SATELLITES. THE GOF'S CONCERN, HE SAID, STEMS FROM THE FACT THAT ARIANE IS IN DIRECT COMPETITION WITH THE CHINESE LAUNCHERS. LEFAS SAID THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE RECENT DEMARCHE MADE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY(ESA) TO PRESIDENT REAGAN AND AMBASSADOR YEUTTER ON THIS ISSUE, AND BELIEVES THE USG SHOULD HAVE CONSULTED WITH ESA-MEMBER COUNTRIES BEFORE APPROACHING THE CHINESE.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE ONLY APPROACH WE ARE AWARE OF BETWEEN ESA AND THE U.S. ON THIS ISSUE IS A LETTER FROM ESA'S DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION GEORGE VAN PEETH TO BRUCE WILSON OF USTR (REFTEL). (LEFAS HAD PREVIOUSLY EMPHASIZED TO EMBASSY OFFICIAL HIS HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE A PROMPT REPLY.) IF OTHER APPROACHES HAVE BEEN MADE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO GET A READOUT FROM WASHINGTON. END COMMENT

ACTION SECDEF(8) (M,C)
INFO QUAL CONTROL(1) SECDEF-W(1) USDP(1) USDP:ISA(1)
USDP:PDISA(1) USDP:PDISP(1) USDP:EAP(3)
USDP:DASDEUR(2) USDP:DSAA(4) USDP:NA(1) USDP:FMRA(1)
USDP:LRP(1) USDP:LIC(1) USDP:EUR POL(1)
USDP:REG POL(1) USDP:NATOPOL(1) NMIC(1) DIO(1)
DB-2B(1) DB-3B(2) DX-6C(1) DIA(1)

Office of the Secretary of Defense Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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Declassify: X Declassify in Part: Deny in Full:
Reason:
MDR: 22-M-0964

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