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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 9828
BT
UNCLAS STATE 255727

Rep Studts
Re Young

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, UR
SUBJECT: US-USSR COMPREHENSIVE FISHERIES AGREEMENT

REF: MOSCOW 18844

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL, THERE ARE TWO WAYS IN WHICH THE U.S.-SOVIET COMPREHENSIVE FISHERIES AGREEMENT CAN ENTER INTO FORCE. FIRST, THE CONGRESS CAN TAKE POSITIVE ACTION AT ANY TIME TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION. THIS STEP HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION BY CONGRESSMAN STUDDS AND YOUNG ON JUNE 27 OF H.R. 4919, A BILL TO APPROVE THE U.S.-SOVIET COMPREHENSIVE FISHERIES AGREEMENT WHICH IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE CONGRESS. SECOND, THE COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT WOULD AUTOMATICALLY ENTER INTO FORCE IF IT SITS BEFORE THE CONGRESS FOR SIXTY CONSECUTIVE DAYS OF LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND CONGRESS DOES NOT TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO APPROVE THE BILL. BASED ON THE CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR, IN LIEU OF POSITIVE ACTION THIS SIXTY DAY PERIOD WOULD END ON OR ABOUT OCTOBER 10, AT WHICH TIME THE AGREEMENT WOULD ENTER INTO FORCE.

2. BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS IT IS LIKELY THAT THE CONGRESS WILL TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO APPROVE THE COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT SOMETIME AFTER IT RETURNS FROM RECESS ON SEPTEMBER 8. WE ARE AWARE OF NO OPPOSITION TO THE AGREEMENT AND HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE IT WILL BE APPROVED SOON AFTER THE CONGRESSIONAL RECESS.

3. THE DEPT IS VERY CONCERNED OVER REPORT REFTEL THAT THE MINFISH IS CONSIDERING POSTPOINING AN AUGUST 17 MEETING IN KHABAROVSK BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIET FISHING INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES UNTIL THE AGREEMENT IS IN FORCE. CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT THE LATEST THE AGREEMENT COULD BE APPROVED IS MID-OCTOBER, WE SEE NO REASON FOR THE TALKS NOT TO CONTINUE AS PLANNED. WE URGE MINFISH NOT POSTPONE THE INDUSTRY MEETING IN KHABAROVSK.

4. DEPT ASO URGES SOVIETS TO PROVIDE THE FULL LIST OF REQUESTED DOCUMENTS ON SOVIET FISHERIES LEGISLATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS WILL GREATLY FACILITATE THE PROMPT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT ONCE IT IS APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS. ARMACOST
END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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