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SUBJECT: HERewith SUPPORT CABLE FOR EAST ASIA BRIEF OCPAS EAB 91-305
FOR 31 DECEMBER 1991



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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAY 2004

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2. KOREAS: ACCORD ON DENUCLEARIZATION

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2. KOREAS: ACCORD ON DENUCLEARIZATION []

NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AGREED TODAY TO A HISTORIC DECLARATION ON ESTABLISHING A NUCLEAR-FREE PENINSULA, WITH P'YONGYANG SEPARATELY PLEDGING TO ANNOUNCE A TIMETABLE TO ADOPT IAEA SAFEGUARDS. []

THE TWO SIDES, IN THE THIRD ROUND OF TALKS AT PANMUNJOM, PROMISED TO NOT PRODUCE, POSSESS, OR DEPLOY ANY NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR BUILD NUCLEAR REPROCESSING OR ENRICHMENT FACILITIES, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THE AGREEMENT, WHICH IS TO BE FORMALLY ADOPTED AT THE SIXTH ROUND OF PRIME-MINISTERIAL TALKS ON 18 FEBRUARY, REPORTEDLY ALSO CREATES A JOINT COMMISSION TO MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION. []

OUTSIDE THE FORMAL AGREEMENT, THE NORTH PROMISED TO ANNOUNCE A TIMETABLE TO SIGN AND RATIFY AN IAEA SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT. THE SOUTH, MEANWHILE, SEPARATELY SAID IT WOULD SUSPEND THE ANNUAL US-SOUTH KOREAN MILITARY EXERCISE TEAM SPIRIT SCHEDULED FOR THIS SPRING. []

COMMENT: THE DECLARATION SUSTAINS MOMENTUM TOWARD IMPROVED RELATIONS GENERATED BY THE RECONCILIATION AND NONAGGRESSION PACT INITIALED ON 13 DECEMBER AND REMOVES THE MOST IMMEDIATE OBSTACLES TO IMPLEMENTING THE ACCORD. P'YONGYANG, WHICH HAS LONG REFUSED TO SIGN AN IAEA SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT, PROBABLY HOPES THE NUCLEAR DECLARATION WILL DEFUSE INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF ITS NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM. IN ADDITION, THE NORTH MAY HOPE ITS PROMISE TO GIVE UP NUCLEAR REPROCESSING WILL LEAD TO PROGRESS IN NORMALIZATION TALKS WITH JAPAN NEXT MONTH. []

FOR THEIR PART, SOUTH KOREAN LEADERS ALMOST CERTAINLY HOPE

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[REDACTED]

TODAY'S ACCORD WILL DEFUSE CRITICISM THAT THEY HAVE BEEN PURSUING THE RECONCILIATION ACCORD FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL GAIN WITHOUT DEMANDING PROGRESS ON THE NUCLEAR ISSUE. IN ADDITION, PRESIDENT ROH CLEARLY HOPES TODAY'S AGREEMENT WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR A PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT. [REDACTED]

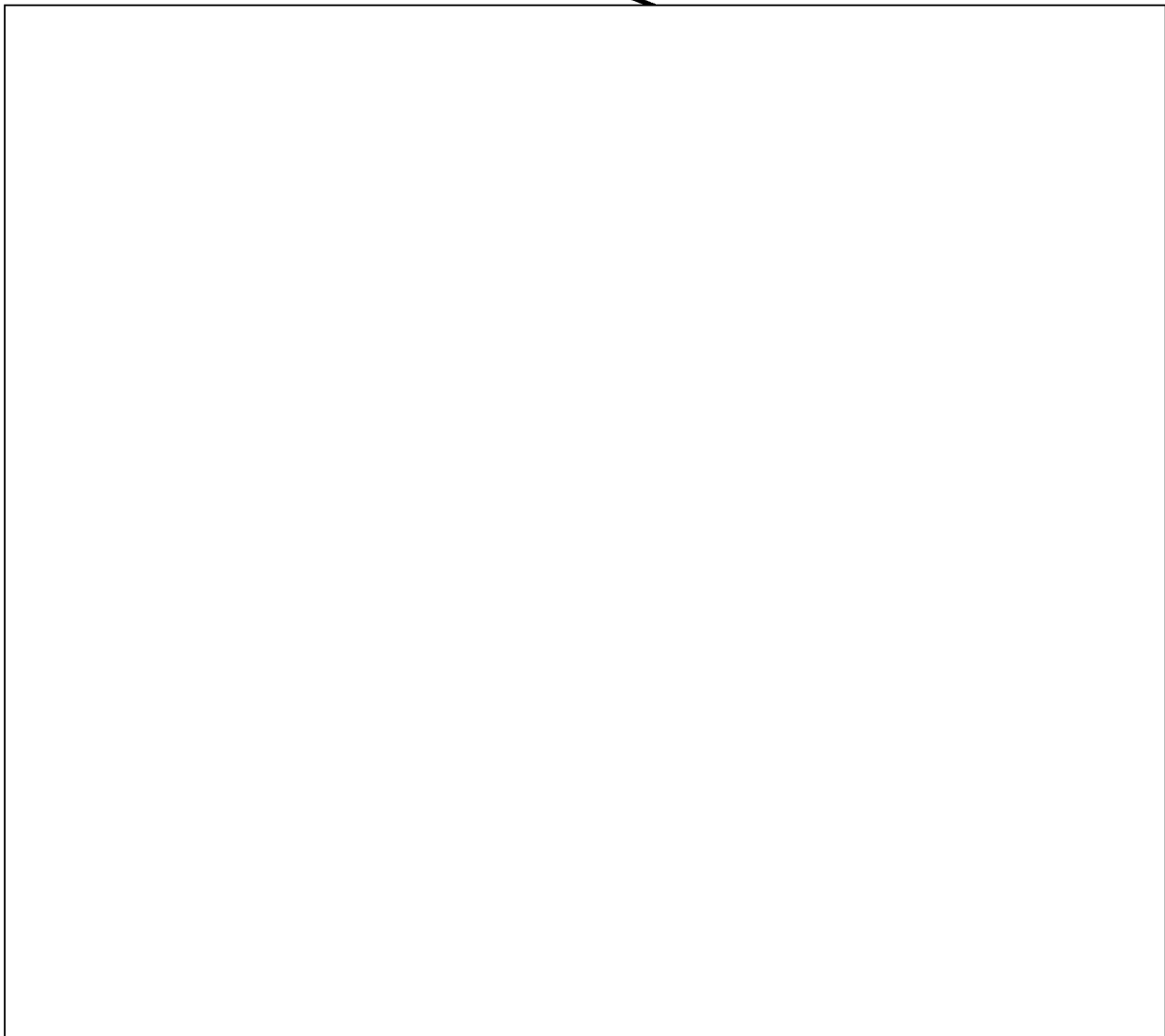
THE PROSPECTIVE IMPACT OF THE DECLARATION ON P'YONGYANG'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM IS UNCERTAIN. P'YONGYANG PROBABLY WILL TRY TO PROTECT ITS NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM BY CONCEALING AND RELOCATING CRITICAL FACILITIES AND OTHERWISE IMPEDING EFFECTIVE INSPECTIONS. [REDACTED]

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