

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

DOS REVIEWED 07-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

TO:

The Secretary

FROM:

P - Joseph J. Sisco

Shipment of Enriched Uranium to India

As you were advised in Ottawa, I authorized the export June 19 of a shipment of enriched uranium for the Tarapur nuclear power reactors in India, built by AID and operating under IAEA safeguards. The shipment is the first of a series of five which were licensed for export by the AEC just before the Indian test. I have also called Tikki Kaul in and told him plainly that future fuel shipments for Tarapur would depend on GOI confirmation that it will not use material the US supplies in peaceful nuclear explosive devices.

On Governor Holton's advice, we have informed the staff director of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee of what we have done and are considering whether additional bases need to be touched on the Hill. So far, the Tarapur question has not become a matter of controversy with Congress. But given current focus on nuclear matters, news of the enriched uranium shipment could create some stir. We are preparing a question and answer for your use when you appear on the Hill tomorrow and will also have suitable guidance ready for the Department press spokesman.

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Concurrence: SCI - Mr. Pollack

NEA - Mr. Laingen