SECY-80-298 June 19, 1980

COMMISSIONER ACTION

For:

The Commissioners

From:

James R. Shea, Director Office of International Programs

Thru:

Acting Executive Director for Operations

Subject:

EXECUTIVE BRANCH RESPONSE ON EXPORT APPLICATION XCOMO382. COMPONENT TO REPROCESSING DIVISION OF BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH

CENTER IN INDIA

Purpose:

Commission review of proposed return of subject license application to Rockwell International without action.

Discussion:

On March 14, 1980, Rockwell International applied for a license to export one specially-designed valve, valued at \$1,600, to India for use in the Fuel Reprocessing Division of the Bhabha Atomic Research Center (Attachment 1).

The license application was forwarded to the Executive Branch for review on March 19, 1980. By memorandum dated May 16, 1980 (Attachment 2), the Executive Branch recommended the application be returned without action, and concluded it was not possible to determine that 1) the requirements of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended by P.L. 95-242, have been met and 2) the proposed export will not be inimical to the common defense and security of the United States. The Executive Branch's judgment was based on the fact that the Bhabha Atomic Research Center is not safeguarded and is not covered by the U.S.-India Agreement for Cooperation; and further, it is not the policy of the United States to provide assistance to foreign reprocessing programs. The staff agrees with these conclusions. Accordingly, attached is a proposed letter to Rockwell International returning the license application without action.

Recently staff recommended denial of a proposed export of SNM to Iran even though the Executive Branch views had recommended that the application be returned without action (See SECY 80-247). Although State had no objection to our denying the Iranian export, State strongly prefers that the application for the proposed export to India be returned without action because of the political differences involved. Staff sees no compelling reason to deny the application, rather than return it without action, since this is perm by our regulations (Part 110) and the legal effect respect to availability of judicial review, is the mby, IP (27984) (See also ELD's additional comments on this is the

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coordination paragraph).

Recommendation:

That the Commission approve the dispatch of the attached draft letter to Rockwell International returning without action their license application.

Coordination:

ELD notes that the State Department use of the "return without action" solution is apparently based on Department of Commerce practice. However, the Export Administration Act specifically gives Commerce authority to return an export license application "without action" if the application is improperly completed or if additional information is required (50 USC App. \$2409(b). Otherwise, the Secretary of Commerce is directed to formally issue or deny the license, (50 USC App. \$2409(f). No such authority or direction to the NRC is found in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. However, since the proposed course of action would have no legal effect as regards judicial review, and does not appear to be contrary to the Atomic Energy Act or the Administrative Procedure Act, ELD has no legal objection.

James J. Shea, Director JUN 17 1980 Office of International Programs

Attachments:

1. Appli. dtd. 03/14/80

Exec. Branch views dtd. 05/16/80

3. Proposed 1tr. to Applicant

DISTRIBUTION:

Commissioners Commission Staff Offices Acting Exec. Dir. for Opers. Secretariat

Commissioners' comments should be provided directly to the Office of the Secretary by c.o.b. Friday, June 27, 1980.

Commission Staff Office comments, if any, should be submitted to the Commissioners NLT June 25, 1980, with an information copy to the Office of the Secretary. If the paper is of such a nature that it requires additional time for analytical review and comment, the Commissioners and the Secretariat should be apprised of when comments may be expected.

ATTACHMENT 1

APPLICATION FOR LICENSE TO EXPORT NUCLEAR MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT (See Instructions on Reverse)

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Washington, D.C. 20520

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BUREAU OF OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL 20 FM 3 34 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

MAY 1 6 1980 HATERHAT'L SEGROS

Mr. James R. Shea Director of International Programs United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Room 6714 - MNBB Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Mr. Shea:

This letter is in response to the letter from your office dated March 19, 1980, requesting Executive Branch views as to whether issuance of an export license in accordance with the application hereinafter described would be inimical to the common defense and security of the United States and whether the proposed export meets the applicable criteria of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-242):

NRC No. XCOM0382 -- Application by Rockwell International for authorization to export to India one specially-designed valve for use in R & D Units, Fuel Reprocessing Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Center. Value of the proposed export is \$1,600.

The Executive Branch has reviewed this application and concluded it is not possible to determine that the requirements of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended by P.L. 95-242 have been met and that the proposed export will not be inimical to the common defense and security of the United States. This judgment is based on the fact that the Bhabha Atomic Research Center is not safeguarded and is not covered by the U.S.-India Agreement for Cooperation. Moreover, the export is intended for use in the Reprocessing Division of the Bhabha Center and it is not U.S. policy to provide assistance to foreign reprocessing programs.

ATTACHMENT 2

On the basis of the foregoing, the Executive Branch recommends that the license be returned to the applicant without action.

Sincerely,

Louis V. Mosenzo
Deputy Assistant Secretary

DRAFT

Rockwell International Flow Control Division 400 North Lexington Avenue Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15208

Attention: William J. Ofsanik

Dear Mr. Ofsanik:

This letter is in reference to your March 14, 1980 application for a license to export one specially designed valve, valued at \$1600, to India for use at the Bhabha Atomic Research Center, Fuel Reprocessing Division, (XCOM0382, your reference number 2929FE).

After consultation with the Executive Branch agencies, we have concluded that we are unable to grant a license for the export of this component as the proposed export does not meet the licensing criteria in Section 109b of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, for the export of nuclear equipment. The Bhabha facility is not under IAEA safeguards. Further, the proposed export is intended for use in the Reprocessing Division of the Bhabha Center, and it is not U.S. policy to provide assistance to foreign reprocessing programs. We are, therefore, returning your export license application without action.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

James R. Shea, Director Office of International Programs

Enclosure: Appli. dtd. 3/14/80 (XCOM0382)