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EXDIS

E.O.12065: RDS-3 1/27/87 (HOLMES, JOHN W.) OR-E  
 TAGS: TRGY, PARM, TNUC, IT, SZ, SCSA  
 SUBJECT: U.S. APPROVAL OF SWISS REQUEST TO SELL  
 PLUTONIUM TO ITALY

REF: PICKERING/SCIATTS LETTER, 19 JANUARY

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. WE GATHER FROM REF LETTER THAT THE SUBJECT APPROVAL HAS BEEN GRANTED. WE WONDER WHETHER IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR US TO BRING TO GOI (BORGIA AND COLOMBO) ATTENTION THIS FACT. AS THE ITALIANS WILL BE NEEDING A GREAT DEAL OF PLUTONIUM OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, MUCH OF WHICH WILL INVOLVE U.S. APPROVALS OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER, WE BELIEVE SUCH APPROVALS SHOULD BE USED TO REMIND THE ITALIANS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF U.S. NUCLEAR COOPERATION (AND BY IMPLICATION THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS TERMINATION SHOULD ITALY BE UNCOOPERATIVE ON THIRD PARTY NONPROLIFERATION ISSUES). GARDNER

END OF MESSAGE

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State Dept. review completed.