TEXT: 1. (U) THE CHINESE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE XINHUA NEWS BULLETIN CARRIED THE FOLLOWING 6 JUN 88 REPORT REAFFIRMING ACTIVITIES TO STOP SILKWORM DELIVERIES TO IRAN VIA THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET.

"SILKWORM MISSILES STOPPED FROM ENTERING IRAN, SAYS FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN." "LONG AGO CHINA TOOK STRICT MEASURES TO STOP SILKWORM MISSILES FROM ENTERING IRAN VIA THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET," A CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID HERE THIS MORNING. THE SPOKESMAN MADE THE STATEMENT WHEN ASKED TO CONFIRM A REPORT BY THE WASHINGTON TIMES ON JUNE 3 THAT CHINA SENT A SHIPMENT OF SILKWORM MISSILES TO IRAN THROUGH NORTH KOREA IN MAY AS DISCLOSED BY A HIGH-RANKING U.S. OFFICIAL. "THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS WELL AWARE OF THIS FACT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID. "AND I DON'T KNOW WHY THIS U.S. OFFICIAL IS STILL SPREADING THIS RUMOR." (END QUOTE).

2. (U) THE XINHUA CHINESE VERSION OF THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE 7 JUN 88 ISSUE OF "PEOPLE'S DAILY" (RENMIN RIBAO). THE CONTENT WAS BASICALLY THE SAME. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER "CHINA DAILY" DID NOT CARRY THIS STORY IN ITS 7 JUN 88 EDITION.

COMMENTS: (b)(5):10 USC 424

THIS PUBLIC STATEMENT AFFIRMS THE OFFICIAL POLICY LINE THAT CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN STRICTLY ADHERING TO SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER WU'S VISIT TO THE U.S. IT IS CHARACTERISTIC THAT THIS STATEMENT MADE BY A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN RESPONSES TO A SPECIFIC REPORT, WHICH ALLEGES A MAY 88 DELIVERY VIA NORTH KOREA, WITH A GENERAL STATEMENT ABOUT TAKING "STRICT MEASURES." THE FRAMEWORK FOR PLAUSIBLE DENIAL REMAINS INTACT WITHOUT DENYING A SPECIFIC REPORT OF DELIVERY.

//IPSP: (U)
//COMSOBJ:

PROJ: (U)
INSTR: (U)
PREP: (U)
ACQ: (U)
DISSEM: (U)
WARNING: (U)

DECL: NODA END OF MESSAGE

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