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SERIAL: DIADIN 251-2E

BODY

SUBJ: CHINA-IRAN: NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE. (U)

DOI: 8 SEP 87 (AS OF 1815 EDT)

TEXT: 1. ~~SPINNE~~ BEIJING'S ARMS MERCHANTS HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING
WITH TEHRAN WHILE DEVISING NEW THIRD AND FOURTH COUNTRY DELIVERY
ROUTES FOR THEIR ~~COMMODITY~~ ANDISE.

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2. ~~TS~~

(b)(1),(b)(3):P.L. 86-36,(b)(3):50 USC 403,(b)(3):18 USC 798,1.4 (c)

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4. ~~SECRET~~

(b)(1),(b)(3):P.L. 86-36,(b)(3):50 USC 403,(b)(3):18 USC 798,1.4 (c)

5. ~~SECRET~~ COMMENT: CHINESE ARMS MERCHANTS AND THEIR EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING COMPANIES APPARENTLY HAVE THE FULL BACKING OF BEIJING'S SENIOR LEADERSHIP FOR MILITARY SALES TO THE GULF. ALTHOUGH OFFICIALLY BEIJING SAYS THAT IT WILL SUPPORT UN RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR AN ARMS EMBARGO AND THAT IT IS ANNOYED WITH TEHRAN'S UNWILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS A UN-SPONSORED CEASE-FIRE WITH BAGHDAD, IT CONTINUES TO ALLOW NEW ARMS SHIPMENTS AND NEGOTIATIONS. SENIOR CHINESE POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS PROBABLY BELIEVE THEY CAN CONTINUE TO MANAGE NEGATIVE INTERNATIONAL OPINION SO LONG AS IRAN AND IRAQ DO NOT USE CHINESE-PRODUCED WEAPONS TO ESCALATE GULF TENSIONS SIGNIFICANTLY.

ADMIN

PREP: (b)(3):10 USC 424

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