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DIRECTORATE OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

WEEKLY SURVEYOR

ISWS - 41/70

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WEEKLY SURVEYOR

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17 October 1970

Directorate of Science and Technology

This publication is intended to furnish the intelligence community with a timely survey of significant current scientific intelligence. The items herein are based on selected incoming reports of all kinds received during the previous week. The comments represent the views of the Office of Scientific Intelligence and the Foreign Missile and Space Analysis Center and are coordinated to the extent possible in the time available within CIA but, being based on the material at hand, are subject to change on receipt of further information or analysis. We caution against action taken solely on the basis of the preliminary evaluations herein. Substantive questions concerning items in this publication may be addressed directly to the Surveyor Staff, OSI, CIA Headquarters, Langley. (Code 143, Extension 6516) Questions concerning distribution should be forwarded through appropriate departmental channels.

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NUCLEAR ENERGY

[redacted]

South Africans Release Further Information on Their Isotope Separation Process: The South African Atomic Energy Board Chairman Roux indicated in recent discussions that the secret new South African isotope separation process is low in capital cost but is a heavy power user. The process lends itself to even smaller scale plants than the centrifuge. Their objective is to have a plant in operation by 1978-80. [redacted]

Comment: The isotope separation process to be utilized by the South Africans is still unknown. The statement that it will be a heavy power user indicates that it is likely to be a physical rather than chemical process of uranium isotope separation. The fact that the process lends itself to small scale plants indicates that the process has a high separative capability. Gas chromotography appears to be ruled out since that process is not

a heavy power user. The South Africans have previously stated that the process is not gaseous diffusion, gas centrifuge nor the Becker nozzle. [redacted]

[redacted]