

IMMEDIATE
~~DENIED IN FULL~~
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

~~INCLASSIFIED~~ ~~SECRET~~ ~~SECRET~~

INCOMING
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CMC REARCS

PAGE 01 ALGIER 01357 021300Z 008766 S021752 ALGIER 01357 021300Z 008766 S021752
INFO: SNP (01) END COMMENT.
02/1333Z AB (TOTAL COPIES: 001) 5. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

ACTION OES-09

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-13 ADS-00 AMAD-01 ARA-00 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 DOEE-00 EB-00 H-01 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19
L-03 NEA-00 NRC-02 HSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PM-00
SNP-00 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00 T-01 EPAE-00 /066W
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O 021249Z APR 91
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0045
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

~~SECRET~~ ALGIERS 01357

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: DAPH, MNUC, PREL, ENRG, AG
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR COOPERATION BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND ALGERIA

1. ~~SECRET~~ ENTIRE TEXT.

2. [REDACTED] SAID A COURTESY VISIT ON THE AMBASSADOR APRIL 1. THE AMBASSADOR USED THE OCCASION TO GET AN UPDATE ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND ALGERIA. THE [REDACTED] SAID THAT THE PROGRAM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON THE NUR RESEARCH REACTOR WAS CONTINUING; THAT 50 ARGENTINE ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS WERE WORKING AT THE SITE WITH THE AIM OF TRAINING ALGERIANS TO RUN THE

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REACTOR SAFELY ON THEIR OWN; THAT THE ALGERIANS PAY CASH ON THE BARREL HEAD FOR ARGENTINE ASSISTANCE; AND THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE APPLYING IAEA SAFEGUARDS ON A BILATERAL BASIS. HE WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE IAEA HAD INSPECTED THE REACTOR OR PLANNED TO DO SO.

3. [REDACTED] SAID THAT ALGERIA HAD NOT SOLICITED ARGENTINE COOPERATION FOR ANY OTHER NUCLEAR PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH ARGENTINA WOULD CERTAINLY BE OPEN TO NEW PROPOSALS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD "RUMORS" ABOUT THE POSSIBLE "HUSH-HUSH" CONSTRUCTION, WITH CHINESE AID, OF A SECOND ALGERIAN NUCLEAR REACTOR DESIGNED TO PRODUCE ISOTOPES; HE EVINced NO ADDITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THIS PROJECT, HOWEVER.

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4. [REDACTED] SAID STATE THAT THE MOROCCANS WERE QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ALGERIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM, BUT IMPLIED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE REAL BASIS FOR THIS WORRY. WHILE THE ARGENTINES HAD BEEN VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE COMPETENCE OF THE ALGERIANS WORKING AT THE NUR, [REDACTED] SAID, AT THIS STAGE THE ALGERIANS WERE NOWHERE CLOSE TO HAVING SUFFICIENT EXPERTISE TO CONSTRUCT A REACTOR WITH MILITARY APPLICATIONS. HE SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT THE MOROCCANS KNEW THIS AND ATTRIBUTED THEIR PROFESSED CONCERN TO TECHNOLOGICAL RIVALRY. IN ANY EVENT, SAID [REDACTED] THE ALGERIANS PROBABLY LACKED THE MONEY TO BUILD A SECOND REACTOR.

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5. COMMENT: IF [REDACTED] IS TO BE BELIEVED, THE ARGENTINES HAVE NO NUCLEAR INVOLVEMENT IN ALGERIA

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BEYOND THE NUR REACTOR AND ARE, IN FACT, AS MUCH IN THE DARK ABOUT A POSSIBLE SECOND REACTOR AS THE REST OF US. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE ISSUE OF IAEA INSPECTIONS FOR THE NUR TO SEE IF THEY COULD BE CITED AS A PRECEDENT FOR APPLYING FUTURE SAFEGUARDS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL
APPEAL ACTION: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELEASED
REASON(S): B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DATE/CASE ID: 14 FEB 2005 200102166

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A JOHNSTON
DATE/CASE ID: 04 MAY 2004 200102166

~~SECRET~~ ~~SECRET~~