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INFO: SNP (01)

WITHOUT MUCH ADDITIONAL COMMENT, THE FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY "ALGER REPUBLICAIN" SAID THAT CHINA, THE U.S., AND ALGERIA SEEMED TO WANT TO MINIMIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AFFAIR. THE FLN-MANAGED ARABIC DAILY "AS-SHA'B" FEATURED AN INTERVIEW WITH THE MINISTER-DELEGATE FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY, WHO FAILED TO EVEN MENTION NUCLEAR RESEARCH.

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ACTN OES-03  
INFO LOG-00 ACDA-13 ADS-00 AMAD-01 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
DOEE-00 EAP-00 EB-00 EUR-00 H-01 INRE-00 INR-01  
IO-19 L-03 NEA-00 NRC-02 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIG-02  
PH-00 SNP-00 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00 T-01 EPAE-00  
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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0136  
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 2155  
USMISSION USVIENNA PRIORITY 0004  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

*Handwritten notes:*  
HE-cc  
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UNCLAS ALGIERS 01547

PARIS FOR ROSENBLATT

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PARM, PREL, MNUC, ENRG, AG, CH  
SUBJ: MFA CONFIRMS CHINESE-ALGERIAN  
NUCLEAR COOPERATION

REF: ALGIERS 1526

1. (U) SUMMARY: THE ALGERIAN MFA HAS CONFIRMED

CHINESE-ALGERIAN COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, STRESSING THAT IT IS FOR PEACEFUL USES. THOUGH IN GENERAL NEWSPAPER COVERAGE IS LOW-KEY, EDITORIAL COMMENT CONTINUES TO SEE THE WORST BEHIND THE U.S. REVELATIONS, DISCERNING A WISH TO PUNISH ALGERIA FOR ITS INDEPENDENT STANCE ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS IRAQ, THE WESTERN SAHARA, AND PALESTINE. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ALL ALGIERS ARABIC AND FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILIES ON APRIL 14 CARRIED THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATEMENT TO APS WHICH CONFIRMED SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN ALGERIA AND CHINA IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. THE MFA STATEMENT STRESSED THE PEACEFUL NATURE OF THE PROGRAM, SAYING THAT ALGERIA HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN RESEARCH IN THIS FIELD FOR SEVERAL YEARS WITH SEVERAL PARTNERS, INCLUDING THE IAEA. THE MFA STATEMENT ENDED BY SAYING THAT ALGERIA IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE AGENCY, AND SERVES ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

3. (U) SOME NEWSPAPER COMMENT CONTINUES TO SEE A CONSPIRACY TO PUT PRESSURE ON ALGERIA, OR WORSE. THE PARALLELS WITH U.S. TREATMENT OF THE RABTA PLANT IN LIBYA AND THE "GIANT CANNON" IN IRAQ CONTINUE TO BE DRAWN, THE BOTTOM LINE BEING THAT THE U.S. CANNOT TOLERATE ARAB ACCESS TO SOPHISTICATED MILITARY TECHNOLOGY. ALGERIA, WITH ITS PRINCIPLED STANDS ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS PALESTINE AND THE WESTERN SAHARA, IS THE "LAST BASTION OF ARAB HONOR," ACCORDING TO THE FLN-MANAGED FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY "EL

MOUDJAHID."

4. (U) MOST NEWSPAPERS, HOWEVER, SEEM TO BE FOLLOWING THE GOA-OWNED TV AND RADIO LOW-KEY APPROACH TO THE NEWS, REPEATING THE MFA STATEMENT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A JOHNSTON  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 MAY 2004 200102166