SECRET

B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CMC REACTIONS

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0 021249Z APR 91
FN AMBASSADOR ALGIER
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE B045
AMBASSADOR BUENOS AIRES

SECRET ALGIER 01357
E.O. 12356; DCL: OADD
TAGS: PAMM ENOC PBEL ENRG AG
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR COOPERATION BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND ALGERIA

1. [SHRPT] ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AID 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 AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE PROGRAM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON THE NUR RESEARCH REACTOR WAS CONTINUING. THAT 58 ARGENTINE ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS WERE WORKING AT THE SITE WITH THE AIM OF TRAINING ALGIERIANS TO RUN THE REACTOR SAFELY ON THEIR OWN. THAT THE ALGIERIANS PAID 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. 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 "HURD" ABOUT THE POSSIBLE "RUSH-RUSH" CONSTRUCTION, WITH CHINESE AND OF A SECOND ALGERIAN NUCLEAR REACTOR DESIGNED TO PRODUCE ISOTOPES; HE EVINCED NO ADDITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THIS PROJECT; HOWEVER.

4. SAID THAT THE MOROCCANS WERE QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ALGERIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM. BUT IMPLIED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE REAL BASIS FOR THIS WORRY. THE ARGENTINES HAD BEEN VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ALGERIANS WORKING AT THE NUR. HE SAID AT THIS STAGE THE ARGENTINES WERE NOT CLOSE TO HAVING SUFFICIENT EXPERTISE TO CONSTRUCT A REACTOR WITH MILITARY APPLICATIONS. HE SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT THE MOROCCANS KNEW THIS AND ATTRAILED THEIR PROGRESS TO TECHNOLOGICAL OTHERWISE. THEN AGARIA PROBABLY LACKED THE MONEY TO BUILD A SECOND REACTOR.

5. COMMENT: TO BE BELIEVED THE ARGENTINES HAVE NO NUCLEAR INVOLVEMENT IN ALGERIA.

B1

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