On November 15, the New York Times reported that, according to current and former senior Administration officials, Ambassador Kennedy received detailed reports on Sino-Algerian nuclear cooperation in late 1988. These reports, according to the NYT, were provided to most other Department offices and the Pentagon only late last year after intelligence information raised concerns about the nature of the cooperation.

The allegation that this material was suppressed by Ambassador Kennedy is false. INR has looked into the handling of the reports mentioned in the NYT article. Ambassador Kennedy’s office did receive information on this topic. Ambassador Kennedy’s office delivered the documents in question to INR in mid-January 1989 for evaluation. The documents were misplaced and were discovered by INR during a March 1991 file search. The INR employee who most likely received the documents from Ambassador Kennedy’s office in early 1989 is no longer employed by the government. Thus, INR is unable to comment on the period of inaction.