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CMC REARCS

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INFO:  80863  806232  803663  806232
ACTION 0CS-B3

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FM AMBASSADOR ALCIERS
TO SECONDET WASHOC IMMEDIATE 0136
INFO ROCHDA/AMBASSADOR BEIJING PRIORITY
USMISSION OSUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 2155
USMISSION GUEVARA PRIORITY 004
AMBASSADOR TUNIS PRIORITY
AMBASSADOR RIAD PRIORITY

TUNIS AMBASSADOR PRIORITY

UNCLAS ALGIER 01547

PARIS FOR ROSENBLATT
E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PARM PEEL MHD ENGS AG CR
SUBJ: MFA CONFIRMS CHINESE-ALGERIAN
NUCLEAR COOPERATION

REF: ALCIERS 1526

1. UN 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. UN ALL ALGERS 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. UN SOME NEWSPAPER COMMENT CONTINUES TO SEE A
CONSPIRACY TO PUT PRESSURE ON ALGERIA, OR WORSE,
THE PARALLELS WITH U.S. TREATMENT OF THE RASTA 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 SUFFICIENT 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 FLS-MANAGED FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY "EL
MOUDJAJIDU.

A. UN 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

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