DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CMC REARCS

PRIORITY
RELEASED IN FULL

ACTION DES-09

INFO LOG-00 CDAC-13 AD-69 AF-69 AIT-63 ANDO-01 CEQ-01 CW-69 DDE-00 DRF-00 EAD-00 EOB-00 H-69 INRE-00 NIKI-00 R-33 RCN-00 SF-00 T-00 NS-00 /055

P 021560Z MAY 91
FM AMBASSADOR PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6201
INFO AMBASSADOR ALGERIANS PRIORITY
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR JORDAN PRIORITY
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TUNIS PRIORITY
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR NONUCC PRIORITY
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMERICAN CONSUL MARSEILLE PRIORITY
AIT TAIPEI 619

CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 1193

E.O. 12356; DECL: NOOO
TAGS: PREL PARM MCAC AG CH FR
SUBJECT: DUMAS CLAIMS ASSURANCES ON ALGERIAN REACTOR

1. (D) FOREIGN MINISTER DUMAS IS QUOTED BY AFP AS

SAYING MAY 1 AT A BEIJING PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A NUMBER OF "CLARIFICATIONS" CONCERNING THE SINO-ALGERIAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION. DUMAS IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT "THERE IS NO QUESTION OF ALGERIA'S ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPON. ALGERIA HAS AGREED TO MAKE PUBLIC ALL INFORMATION RelATING TO ITS COOPERATION WITH CHINA." SINO-ALGERIAN COOPERATION IS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "RESEARCH CENTER OF RELATIVELY SMALL DIMENSIONS FOR PURELY CIVILIAN PURPOSES." DUMAS ADDED THAT HE DID NOT THINK THERE WAS A SYSTEMATIC INTENT ON THE PART OF CHINA TO HIDE ANYTHING. CHINA PROVIDED THE IAEA WITH ALL THE INFORMATION IT WAS OBLIGATED TO PROVIDE. HE CONCLUDED WITH THE COMMENT THAT "WE WILL KNOW A LITTLE MORE ABOUT ALL OF THIS" IN THE FRAMEWORK OF CHINESE UNDERTAKINGS TO MAKE THESE THINGS PUBLIC.

2. (D) ACCORDING TO THE PARIS DAILY LIBERATION (MAY 1), DUMAS FOUND THESE ASSURANCES "SUFFICIENT FOR THE PRESENT." DUMAS REPORTED WRITTEN LIBERATION REPORTS THAT CHINESE PRIME MINISTER LI PENG TOLD DUMAS THE ALGERIANS HAD AGREED TO THE IAEA REQUEST THAT THE REACTOR BE PUT UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS.

3. (D) COMMENT: FRANCO-ALGERIAN RELATIONS (WITH THEIR HISTORICAL LAYERS OF MUTUAL SUSPICION) AND THE FRENCH PUBLIC'S FIXATION WITH THREATS FROM THE Maghreb WOULD MAKE THIS A NATURAL MEDIA-GENERATED "AFFAIRE." IT IS THEREFORE SURPRISING THAT THE FRENCH PRESS HAS NOT YET SUCCUMBED TO SENSATIONALISM A LA THE LONDON SUNDAY TIMES AND OBSERVER (PROBABLY BECAUSE THE FRENCH PAPERS WERE BEATEN TO THE SCOOP). NEVERTHELESS, THIS COULD CHANGE ESPECIALLY IF SOME AMBIGUITY REMAINS. AS OF NOW, SOME CONTINUE TO PLAY IT STRAIGHT; OTHERS ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF BEING TEMPTED TO TURN THIS INTO AN "ISLAMIC BOMB THREAT FROM THE MAGHREB" STORY. THUS, LIBERATION IN ITS MAY 1 ARTICLE RAISES THE ISSUE OF AN "ISLAMIC HATE GROUP" ON THE OLD-MAHREB IT. IT QUOTES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A JOHNSTON
DATE/CASE ID: 20 APR 2004 200102166

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED