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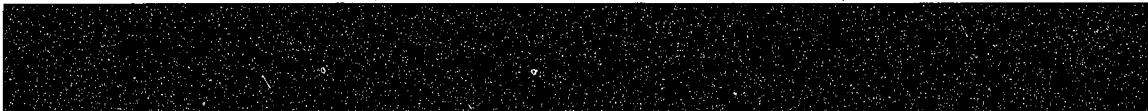
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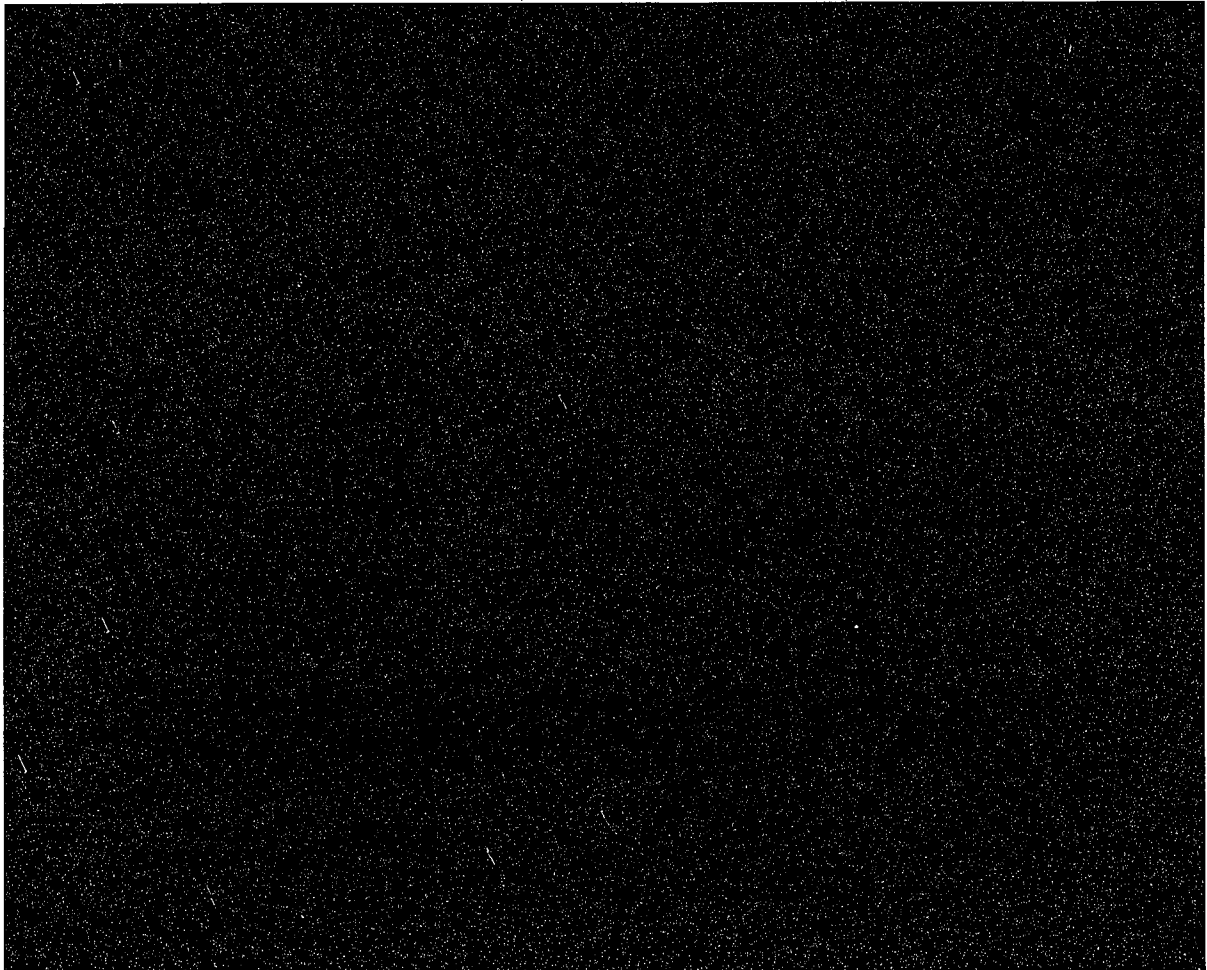


South Africa Awards Nuclear Power Project
to the French 1



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NUCLEAR ENERGY



South Africa Awards Nuclear Power Project to the French: After giving a letter of intent to a US-Dutch-Swiss consortium, South Africa decided to award the \$1 billion reactor contract to the French-led consortium of Framatome, Alstham, and Spie Batignalles. The French consortium will build the first of two power reactors planned for a site 25 miles north of Cape Town. The reactor is scheduled for completion in 1982. (Washington Post, 30 May) [REDACTED]

Comment: Other sources reported that France will supply both reactors for the site. France almost certainly will provide not only both reactors but also the

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first few loads of nuclear fuel for the power station. South Africa has a contract with the US for enrichment services to meet the needs of its first two reactors. If that contract is not implemented, uranium could be enriched either in the USSR or perhaps in the Eurodif plant at Tricastin, France. It is also possible that South Africa will be able to enrich a sufficient quantity of uranium in its pilot enrichment plant at Valindaba to accommodate two large power reactors. Once enriched, the uranium almost certainly will be made into reactor fuel by the French.

South Africa intends to have its own fuel fabrication plant early in its nuclear power program and requested that the French include such a facility in their proposal. France was unable to offer a fuel fabrication plant, however, because the use of this technology was controlled by a license from a US company, [REDACTED]. South Africa subsequently held discussions with [REDACTED] with no firm results. Further talks are to follow.

Even though South Africa may have its own fuel fabrication plant and a uranium enrichment plant in the mid-1980s, and hence a fairly independent source of nuclear fuel, power reactors such as the one to be supplied by France cannot provide usable plutonium until the spent fuel is reprocessed. South Africa has indicated that construction of a reprocessing plant will not be considered in the near future. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

