

PROVISIONALLY
DECLASSIFIED

14 February 2002

Memorandum for the Vice President

In response to your question on the possible sale of uranium from Niger to Iraq and its implications for Baghdad's nuclear program:

We have tasked our clandestine sources with ties to the Nigerian Government and consortium officials to seek additional information on the contract. We also are working with the Embassy and the defense attache's office in Niamey to verify their reports.

If converted to feed material and enriched, 500 tons of yellowcake could be used to produce enough weapons-grade material for [redacted] nuclear devices. According to our assessment of Iraq's nuclear weapons program, Iraq could produce enough fissile material for a nuclear weapon by mid-decade if it obtains significant foreign assistance [redacted].

- The IAEA says Iraq already has some 550 tons of yellowcake—200 tons of which were purchased in 1978 from Niger, but the material remains in sealed containers subject to annual IAEA inspection.
- The IAEA conducted its most recent inspection last month and has officially verified that the container seals were intact. [redacted]

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SECRET [redacted]

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