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Subtitled Clips of China's Declassified Underground Nuclear Facility in Chongqing

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The following are two OSC subtitled clips of television reports on a former PLA underground nuclear processing facility, codenamed Project 816, located in Fuling, Chongqing. The reports were originally broadcast during the "News at Noon" program on CQTV [Chongqing Television] at 0400 GMT on 22 and 23 April 2010 and posted on *youku* and *youtube* websites separately.

According to an announcer, construction of Project 816 began in 1967, was ordered to stop in 1984, and was never formally completed. Parts of the facility had been used as a warehouse by the Jian Feng Industrial Group before its declassification in April 2003. It is now open to domestic tourists as an attraction for the 2010 Three Gorges Tourism Campaign.

The six-minute announcer-read reports over video with natural sound describe the scale and the interior of the facility. The OSC-provided subtitles are translations of the announcer's narration and sound bites in the reports.

Below are video stills from the reports:



One of the entrances to Project 816



Shot of tunnels inside the underground nuclear facility



Shot of the site for nuclear reactors



Shot of nuclear reaction cauldron

CQTV reporter Cai Qiang: "I am now at one of the 19 caves of Project 816. The entrance of it measures nearly 7 meters in width and 12 to 13 meters in height. I can feel that the ventilation is very good because the wind keeps blowing outward from inside the cave. The temperature here is kept at 25 degrees in all seasons. That is why although it is very hot outside, I see my breath as I speak here. A builder of the site told me that the tour would take one hour. Let's go and have a good look."

Hu Lindan, deputy general manager of Jian Feng Industrial Group: "We are now at the site of our country's first nuclear power plant. You can tell from this end to that end, that it is huge. It is half the size of a soccer field and used to host three generators with 80,000 kilowatts."

Project 816 is a gigantic system hidden in an inconspicuous mountain. The plant is 400 meters inside the cave and the cover above it can reach 200 meters, while the cover over key areas averages 150 meters. According to experts, Project 816 is the world's biggest artificial cave. It is an ideal military facility because it can sustain the explosive impact of a one-million-ton H bomb and resist earthquakes measuring up to eight on the Richter Scale.

There are 18 caves inside the main cave and over 130 roads, tunnels, and passages, totaling 21 kilometers in length. When construction came to a halt in 1984, it was 85 percent complete with 60 percent of the equipment installed to a cost of 740 million renminbi. The feature of Project 816 is that there are multiple stories and caves within the caves, making it like a maze.

Hu: "There is another cave to my left. Here, you can find small caves inside big caves and in different floors. There are caves on each floor."

Reporter: "There are floors under where we are right now?"

Hu: "Yes. There are over six floors under us, and the height of each floor measures around five meters."

Reporter: "I see ladders here. Are there floors up there?"

Hu: "There are multiple floors."

Reporter: "How many floors?"

Hu: "Around seven to eight floors."

We then follow him into a spacious cave. This is the cave for nuclear reactors. The sheer size of it is spectacular.

Hu: "Nuclear bombs are a great mystery to many. The place to make nuclear bombs must be an even bigger mystery; plus, ours is an underground one. It is so immense that we call it the Underground Great Wall."

Inside the nuclear reactor cave, we see the apparatus in the master control room remains intact, and the reaction cauldron is also there. The cauldron is 20 meters in diameter and five meters in depth, and the bottom is largely in good shape. Installed into the operation panel was China's most advanced computer at the time.

Click [here](#) to view the subtitled *youtube* clip in wmv format. (4 min 43 sec)

Cai Qiang, CQTV reporter: "We have descended scores of meters underground. There is water all over the floor because we are closer to the mountain base. This is where the reaction cauldron was. We can tell that the preventive measures were very stringent. This is a door made of lead. It's really heavy and I can't close it without help. How heavy is it?"

Hu Lindan: "It weighs at least one ton. This used to be a high pressure pump station. Why did we need such a thick and heavy door here? It was used to prevent water from leaking. The water circulated inside the pump station was highly radioactive and needed to be contained."

The bottom of the reaction cauldron is like a huge spider web and the operation interface is loaded with numerous keys.

Hu: "Look at this operation platform. It was all made domestically."

More than 20,000 officers and men of the PLA 8342 engineering corps dug round the clock for eight long years for Project 816. The total number of people involved in the construction surpassed 60,000, and the volume of rocks dug out reached 1.51 million cubic meters. The whole Jianzishan Mountain was emptied to make room for an underground facility that comprises nine-storied caves measuring 79.6 meters in height and over 130 roads and tunnels totaling 21 kilometers in length. So, what exactly is the scale of the project? Its enormity can be shown through this panoramic map. The region marked in yellow is the area open to the public and it constitutes less than 10 percent of the whole facility.

Click [here](#) to view the subtitled *youku* clip in wmv format. (2 min 30 sec)

[Description of Source: Beijing Youku.com in Chinese -- China's leading Internet video website, offering both professionally produced and user-generated videos; URL: <http://www.youku.com>]

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