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CMC REARCS

INCOMING  
EE34

PAGE 01 PARIS 11903 021511Z 008959 S080753  
INFO: SNP (01)  
----- 02/1510Z AB (TOTAL COPIES: 001)  
ACTION DES-09

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-13 ADS-00 AF-00 AIT-03 AMAD-01 CEQ-01  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOEE-00 EAP-00 EB-00 EUR-00 H-01  
INRE-00 INR-01 10-19 L-03 NEA-00 NRC-02 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 OIC-02 PM-00 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 T-01  
EPAE-00 /065W  
-----6144AB 021513Z /45 38

P 021506Z MAY 91  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6201  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
EC COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
AIT TAIPEI 0219

*Handwritten:*  
H6-cc  
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PARIS 11903 021511Z 008959 S080753  
DUMAS CONCERNING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE: "GIVEN THE PROXIMITY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON, BUT NOT NECESSARILY IN THE SPIRIT OF SUSPICION." THIS SUSPICION, HOWEVER, IS EXEMPLIFIED IN A SAME DAY ARTICLE IN LE FIGARO, WHICH CLASSES ALGERIA WITH OTHER "SUSPECTS" (IRAQ AND IRAN) AND CONCLUDES THAT "IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DEBUC REAL ALGERIAN INTENTIONS." RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE QUOTIDIEN GOES EVEN FURTHER, REMINDING READERS THAT "ALGERIA IS UNSTABLE, THUS DANGEROUS", AND THAT THE REACTOR IS 1,000 KILOMETERS FROM MARSEILLE.

4. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.  
CURLEY

CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 11903

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, PARM, MNUC, AG, CH, FR  
SUBJECT: DUMAS CLAIMS ASSURANCES ON ALGERIAN REACTOR

1. (U) 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 SINO-ALGERIAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION. DUMAS IS REPORTED TO HAVE STATED 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 INTENTION 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. (U) ACCORDING TO THE PARIS DAILY LIBERATION (MAY 2), DUMAS FOUND THESE ASSURANCES "SUFFICIENT FOR THE MOMENT" (DUMAS' REPORTED WORDS). LIBERATION REPORTS THAT CHINESE PRIME MINISTER LI PENG TOLD DUMAS THE ALGERIANS HAD AGREED TO THE PRC REQUEST THAT THE REACTOR BE PUT UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS.

3. (C) 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 SUCCEDED 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 2 ARTICLE RAISES THE ISSUE OF AN "ALGERIAN BOMB" ONLY TO DE-DRAMATIZE IT. IT QUOTES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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