

UNITED STATES ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20451

August 24, 1979

MEMORANDUM

TO: T/D - Mr. Salmon  
ACDA/NP - Mr. Van Doren  
ACDA/NP - Dr. Rochlin  
OES - Mr. Nosenzo  
OES - Mr. Guhin  
OES - Mr. Helfrich  
PM/NPP - Mr. Humphreys  
S/P - Mr. Gallucci  
S/AS - Mr. Locke  
EUR - Mr. Barmon  
NEA - Ms. Casey

FROM: ACDA/NP/NX - Richard L. Williamson *RW*

SUBJECT: Nuclear Development in Iraq

The attached Chronology of events covers diplomatic traffic through the SECRET and EXDIS' level (it does not include code word or NODIS traffic) on developments in Iraq and summarizes actions the US government has taken to date.

Iraq's cooperation with France and Italy poses a potentially dangerous situation and needs to be closely watched for any future developments. I hope the attached paper will prove useful in that regard.

cc: D/P - Dr. Corden

ACDA/NP/NX:LWatson:rmp  
8/24/79

SECRET/EXDIS

SECRET

Chronology of French/Italian/Iraqi  
Cooperation in the Nuclear Field

November 18, 1975 - Cooperation agreement for peaceful use of nuclear energy was signed between France and Iraq. The final signature date is often cited as August 1976.

January 11, 1977 - U.S. sends Aide Memoire to Italian Government regarding its potential cooperation with Iraq.

June 12, 1977 - French Government announces the sale of a 70 MW(t) research reactor similar to the OSIRIS using uranium enriched 93%. (US subsequently approached GOF to encourage use of LEU.)

February 15, 1978 - Ambassador Smith in Paris discussed Iraqi situation with Jacomet and Louet. He was informed that the French intended to keep a team at the reactor site until they could use low enrichment fuel cores ("Caramel design").

May 1978 - Iraqis apparently dissatisfied with French cooperation approach; Italian, Swiss and German firms approached concerning turkey design and construction of first power plant (500-600MW).

October 1978 - Italians announce a contract with Iraq for the sale of 4 research laboratories signed in February. One lab will manufacture radioisotopes for X-ray and industrial uses, the other three will perform research on fuel fabrication and nuclear component material testing. (First contract resulting in construction of first facility signed in 1976. Second contract was signed in February 1978).

November 1978 - Follow-up reporting clarifies sale of Italian equipment which includes a radiochemistry lab capable of wet chemistry.

April 1979 - Components for the 70MW(t) OSIRIAIC reactor, which France is constructing for Iraq, were damaged in an explosion at the plant. There were rumors that the Israelis might have been involved in this sabotage incident (though subsequent reports said no evidence has been found of Israeli involvement). The damage will cause a delay of 6 months to two years to rebuild and retest the damaged equipment.

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April 1979 - Follow up with Embassy Rome indicated that new president of CNEN (Colombo) was concerned about non-proliferation implications of the Italian sale and demonstrated a willingness to brief US officials with more complete information. A suggestion was made to conclude talking points on this issue for Secretary Vance to raise with Foreign Minister in his proposed visit.

May 1979 - Department instructs Embassy Rome to discuss several points with CNEN President Colombo, including US concerns about the radiochemistry lab. These concerns included potential for spent fuel reprocessing and training of Iraqi scientists in this context for potential use in larger facilities. Embassy called on Colombo on May 24 and he expressed willingness to evaluate the lab using technical information supplied by the US.

June 1979 - Information was forwarded to GOI on the design characteristics of hot cell facilities that would facilitate the reprocessing of research reactor fuels.

June 1979 - Prime Minister Andreotti in response to discussions with Secretary Vance asked for a group of representatives from Italian industry to meet with US non-proliferation experts.

June 1979 - Italian official confirms "wet chemistry" capabilities of radiochemistry lab and that 35 Iraqi students were expected for training in Italy in January.

July 1979 - State/ACDA/DOE team meets with Italian Government officials and industry representatives to discuss non-proliferation concerns. Team is deeply concerned at level of Italian assistance to Iraq.

ACDA/NP/NX:LWatson:rmp  
8/21/79

SECRET