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No: [8805]

Date: 30 December 1974

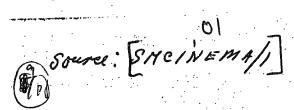
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Yours sincerely	
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NUSLEAR RESEARCH IN CHBA

- 1. The first national meeting of the National Research Institute (ININ) was held in August 1374 and, according to a dayana radio broadcast monitored by the BBC on 23 Sctober, some 105 papers related to the poaceful use of the atom were precented. One of these papers had dealt with "the identification of iron and manganese in minerals by the age of neutrons" and another with research in Mchanging the physical properties of bayasse to give it solidity and durability; in order to acadeve this the bayasse was treated with nuclear radiation". The newspaper, Juventud Rebelde, reported on 22 August that a paper was presented at the same meeting on the subject of thermonuclear powerplants by Marie Fleites, mead of the Department of Fiture Development of the Empress Concolidade de la Flectricidad. Fleites estimated 1980 as the earliest possible date for work to begin on such a plant.
- 2. The 29 October broadcast, made by Hammel Juan SAMDZA, claimed that research into the use of nuclear energy for economic growth during the Previous five years was producing the necessary technical and scientific knowledge; Cuban leaders expected to have nuclear plants generating electricity in Juba in the near future. Hore than 40 institutes, including ININ, were involved in the work.
- 3. A Prensa Latina report, datelined Hoacow, appeared in Gramma of 10 December quoting the Aussian Vice-Minister of Energy and Sleatrification, Nikolai P MATTSEU, as announcing the project study for an "atomelectric" plant in Caba. The plant would have two reactors of 400 or 500 megawatts. (The proposal for such a study was presumably discussed by the aussian energy delogation, led by the Minister of Energy and electrification, Piotr S NEFOROZENI, which visited Suba in the second week of October 1974; it would also seem probable that the project was included in the agenda dealt with in the first week of December by the Fifth Caban/Soviet meeting of the Commission for Foonomic and Scientific/Technical collaboration which was led on the Aussian side by Vladimir N NOVIKOV, Vice-Fresident of the Council of Ministers).
- As I have already reported, a US professor of nuclear physics, Jerome STEFFENS, is in Cuba at present, lecturing at #avana University. There may, of course, be no connection between STEFFENS and the nuclear research already taking place in Juba for thermonaclear power plants. However, when I not STEFFENS briefly on 7 december (having already methods wife some three days earlier) he said be would like to meet again at my office, or socially, as there were several matters concerning him work in Juba which we (the mission) might find of interest. Hicole SZULC

/later.....

later told me that she had given STEFFENS my name and office telephone number as he had asked for them; she sailed rather mysteriously that whatever it was he wished to discuss was a natter between the two of us, and she had no wish to be involved (this was anyway stating the obvious as she was leaving two days later). I hope to see STEFFENS again and will report anything of interest.

5. Since drafting the above I have spoken to Dorothy STAFFERS on their hotel telephone on 17 December. She said that they were leaving for Barbados on 18 December and so were unable to accept the invitation I had given them. She also remarked that the matter her husband had wished to discuss had lost its urgency: it could wait until their next visit in 1975.