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ASSEMBLEE GENERALE
Quarante-deuxième session
Points 33, 36, 47 et 51 de la
liste préliminaire*
POLITIQUE D'APARTHEID DU GOUVERNEMENT
SUD-AFRICAIN
QUESTION DE NAMIBIE
APPLICATION DES RESOLUTIONS DE
L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
NECESSITE URGENTE DE CONCLURE UN
TRAITE D'INTERDICTION COMPLETE
DES ESSAIS NUCLEAIRES

CONSEIL DE SECURITE
Quarante-deuxième année

Lettre datée du 15 juillet 1987, adressée au Secrétaire général par
le Représentant permanent de l'Iraq auprès de l'Organisation des
Nations Unies

D'ordre de mon gouvernement, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire tenir ci-joint le texte de l'article publié par l'hebdomadaire britannique The Observer dans son numéro paru le dimanche 17 mai 1987, intitulé "Namibia uranium may fuel Iran's A-bomb" (L'uranium namibien pourrait servir à la fabrication de la bombe A iranienne), où il est affirmé que le régime iranien continue de se procurer de l'uranium extrait de la mine de Rossing - située dans le territoire namibien occupé par le régime raciste sud-africain - dont le Gouvernement iranien détient 10% des actions.

Je vous serais obligé de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte de la présente lettre et de son annexe comme document de l'Assemblée générale, au titre des points 33, 36, 47 et 51 de la liste préliminaire, et du Conseil de sécurité.

Le Représentant permanent,

(Signé) Ismat KITTANI

* A/42/50 et Corr.1.

ANNEXE

Article paru dans le numéro de The Observer
paru le 17 mai 1987

Namibia uranium may fuel Iran's A-bomb

by MARTIN SALLEY
and SHYAM BHATIA

IRAN is secretly buying uranium from a British-operated mine in Namibia, despite Ayatollah Khomeini's strong opposition to South African occupation of the territory.

The Iranian Government also has a shareholding in the mine at Rossing, which is operated by London-based Rio Tinto-Zinc.

Nuclear experts are surprised that Iran has continued to buy uranium from Rossing for the past eight years, while the Shah's ambitious power programme has not come to

fruition. Some observers fear that Khomeini's Government may be trying to develop an atomic bomb.

Our inquiries have revealed that two Iranian officials, Ghafoor Mohebbi and Rahbari Kharazi, sit on the board of Rossing Uranium. The London office of RTZ, which is responsible for the mine's operation, would not comment on the role of the two men.

Iran's 10 per cent stake in Rossing gives the country about 1,000 tonnes of uranium a year. In 1979 a South African company offered to buy out the Iranian stake but a revolutionary committee, reporting to Khomeini, rejected the offer. Since then, Iran has had access to up to 8,000 tonnes of uranium yellowcake, worth about £200 million.

British contract

Iranian purchases are handled by RTZ Mineral Services, a London-based company which is registered in the Swiss town of Zug. Because of political sensitivity, the contract has been treated as highly secret.

The UN Council for Namibia has banned the import of Namibian natural resources and

called for the cancellation of contracts for Rossing uranium. Britain's Central Electricity Generating Board had a controversial contract for Rossing uranium until 1984, but this was not renewed because of both falling demand and the political sensitivity of importing from Namibia.

Although Iran has signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Khomeini's Government is worried by Iraq, its main protagonist in the Middle East.

The Iraqis had an advanced programme of nuclear research at Tammuzat, near Baghdad, which was bombed by the Israelis in 1981.

South African and Namibian uranium is covered by fewer restrictions than supplies from other countries, and is easier to divert for military purposes.

If Khomeini pursues the development of nuclear weapons, he may find uranium a useful commodity to exchange or sell for technology from other aspiring nuclear powers.