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ARGENTINA-BRAZIL: Nuclear Cooperation


Argentina and Brazil are working toward a nuclear cooperation agreement, which is expected to be signed when Brazilian President Figueiredo visits Buenos Aires in May. 

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Actual nuclear cooperation probably will be restricted to such areas as manufacture of heavy nuclear components, laser applications, and fusion research. Even though Argentina and Brazil are developing different reactor systems, there are several areas in which technical cooperation is feasible. Argentina probably will guard its lead over Brazil in the development of a full nuclear fuel cycle, however, and is not likely to offer any significant technology, such as reprocessing, because for the foreseeable future Brazil cannot provide something comparable in return. 

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Nonetheless, a nuclear agreement would be an important development in the effort of these traditional rivals to become closer and more cooperative. An agreement also should help prevent each nation from feeling threatened by the other's nuclear developments and could reduce pressures to develop nuclear weapons. 

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