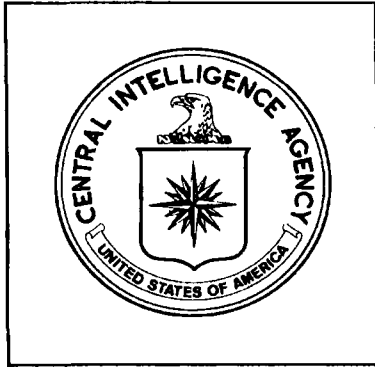


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Latin America

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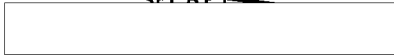
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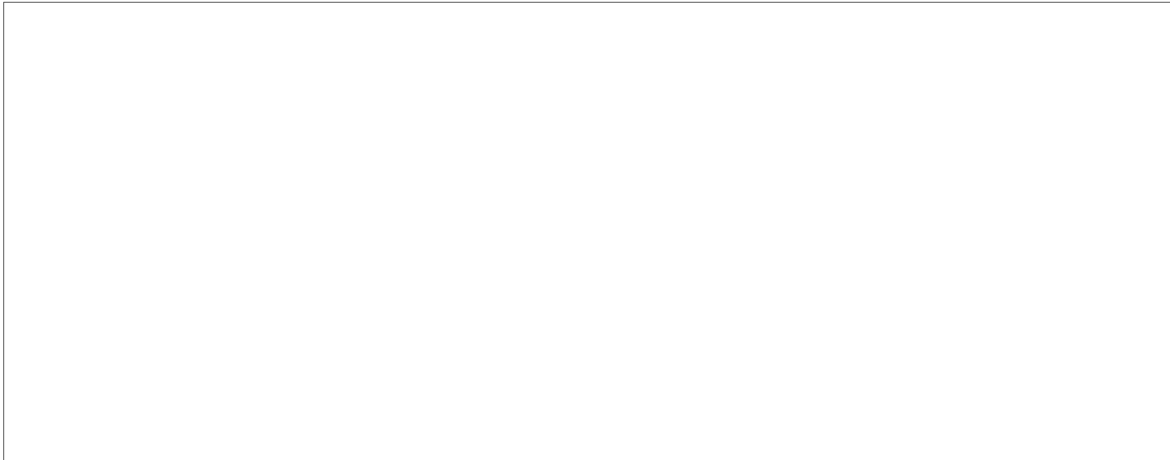
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Brazil-US: Nuclear Fuel Issue



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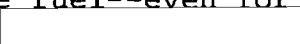
Brazil  increasingly skeptical that the US intends to fulfill its commitment to ship nuclear fuel to Brazil. 

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In a front-page article last week, the leading Rio de Janeiro daily accused the US of "holding back Brazil's uranium," and noted that the US Department of State "has not moved even a toothpick in this direction." The newspaper asserted that the story came from "informed diplomatic sources." This week, however, the Minister of Mines and Energy stated on national television that "there is no information about the possibility of not being furnished the service of uranium."

Despite the caution currently being exercised by official spokesmen, the government can be expected to react strongly if it becomes apparent that the US has in fact decided to delay shipment of the fuel--even for a legitimate reason like poor security. 

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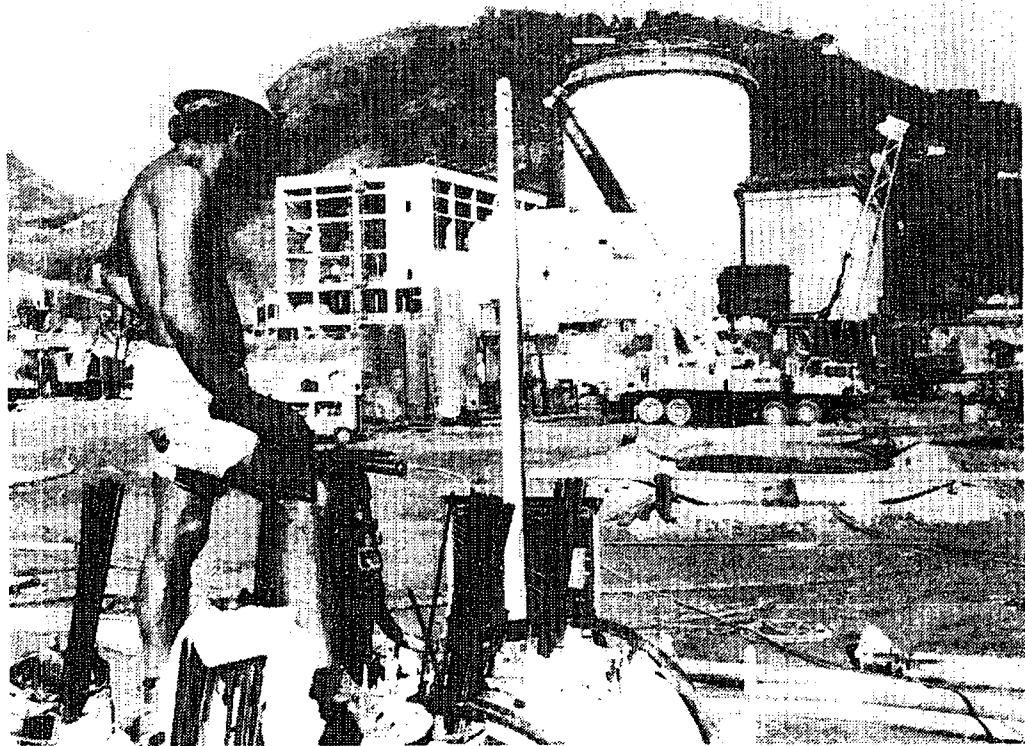


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*Brazil's nuclear power plant Angra 1 under construction*

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