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03/11/2003
SPWR031103-04

Iraq: Iraq's Reported Interest in Buying Uranium From Niger and Whether Associated Documents are Authentic [redacted]

(b)(3)

We do not dispute the IAEA Director General's conclusion—last Friday before the UN Security Council—that documents on Iraq's agreement to buy uranium from Niger are not authentic. [redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

The US last month provided the documents to the IAEA in response to its request for information on Iraqi attempts to buy foreign uranium but expressed concern about their veracity.

— A foreign government provided us the documents suggesting that Niger as of early 2001 had planned to send Iraq several tons of "pure uranium."

[redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

[redacted] on several occasions has cautioned IAEA inspectors that available information on this issue was fragmentary and unconfirmed and early last month told them, "We could not confirm these reports and have questions regarding some specific claims. Nonetheless, we are concerned that these reports may indicate Baghdad has attempted to secure an unreported source of uranium yellowcake for a nuclear weapons program."

(b)(1)

— A centerpiece of the British white paper last fall was UK concern over Iraqi interest in foreign uranium. Given the fragmentary nature of the reporting [redacted]

[redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(1)
(b)(3)

[redacted]

(b)(3)

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