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02/14/2002
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Iraq-Niger: Possible Sale of Uranium From Niger to Iraq and its Implications for Baghdad's Nuclear Program [redacted]

(b)(3)

Information on the alleged uranium contract between Iraq and Niger comes exclusively from a foreign government service report that lacks crucial details, and we are working to clarify the information and to determine whether it can be corroborated. The report claims Niger [redacted]

(b)(3)

[redacted] signed a contract to supply Iraq annually with 500 tons of uranium—most likely yellowcake [redacted]

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[redacted] Iraq is not allowed to import most radioactive material, including raw uranium and yellowcake, under the current UN sanctions regime.

-- The report provides no details on when deliveries were scheduled [redacted]
[redacted]

(b)(3)

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

Some of the information in the report contradicts reporting from the US Embassy in Niamey. US diplomats say the French Government-led consortium that operates Niger's two uranium mines maintains complete control over uranium mining and yellowcake production. [redacted]

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

If converted [redacted] *500 tons of yellowcake could be used to produce enough weapons-grade material for some 50 nuclear devices.* Iraq's nuclear weapons program probably could produce enough fissile material for a nuclear weapon by mid-decade if it obtains significant foreign assistance or has clandestinely built the necessary fuel cycle facilities.

(b)(1)

-- [redacted] Iraq already has some 550 tons of yellowcake [redacted] but the material remains in sealed containers subject to annual IAEA inspection.

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

[redacted]

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

[redacted]

(b)(3)

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