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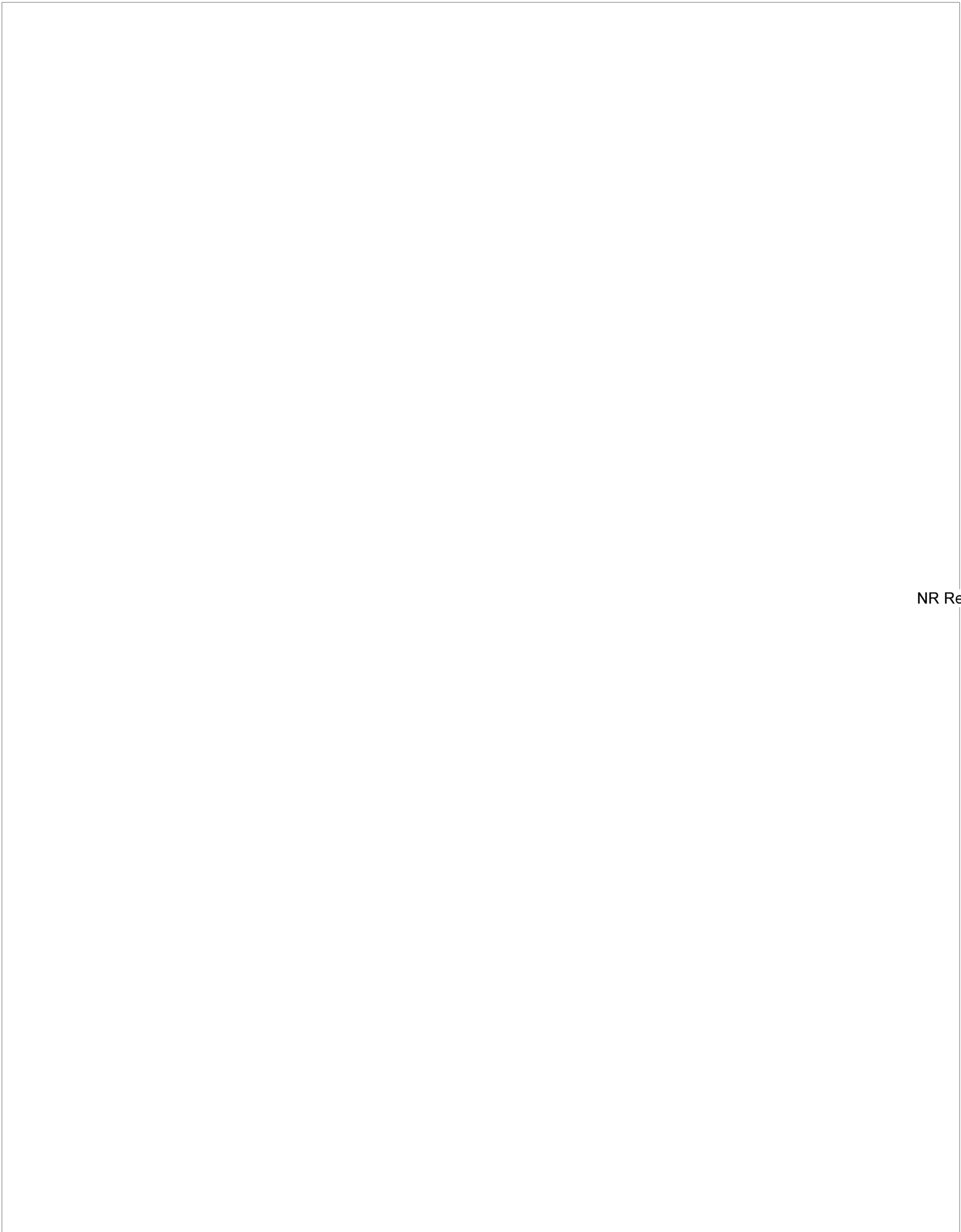
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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Brazil-US: Nuclear Problems

Brazil

increasingly convinced that renegotiation of the 1972 Nuclear Cooperation Agreement with the US could cause a major delay in granting the export license necessary to ship nuclear fuel for the Brazilian power plant being built by Westinghouse. Such a delay would cause major problems in the construction of the plant, now scheduled to be in operation by the end of 1978, and would cause a serious deterioration in bilateral diplomatic relations.

administrative and legal

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President Geisel and other senior officials will see any failure by Westinghouse to honor its contract because of US delay in granting an export license as a direct sanction against Brazil's nuclear development program. Many in Brazil already believe that the US cannot be trusted as a supplier of nuclear fuel.

Such a failure could strengthen the hand of nationalistic officers in the Brazilian army who believe that the government should acquire nuclear weapons technology. Brazil will probably also push harder in international organizations for wider access to nuclear technology.

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