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H. R.

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Brazil: Internal Criticism of Nuclear Program

Several prominent Brazilian Government officials are questioning the viability of the nuclear accord with West Germany as criticism of the agreement intensifies. President Geisel is unlikely to permit any major modifications, but after his term ends in March 1979 implementation of the accord will probably be delayed and the power plant construction program will probably be scaled down.

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Last week, Brazilian technicians and scientists attending an energy symposium in Rio de Janeiro publicly attacked the

nuclear program on the grounds that Brazil is buying equipment and technology from West Germany that will be obsolete by the 1990s. They stated that the construction of nine reactors with a combined capacity of over 10,000 megawatts by 1990 is premature, uneconomical, and does not represent a genuine transfer of technology. One of the participants asserted that Brazil has bought "junk."

has also become dissatisfied with the nuclear program. Forecasts of electric power demand have been scaled down and many key officials believe Brazil's power needs do not justify construction of all the reactors in view of the high cost of the reactors and the nation's other financial needs.

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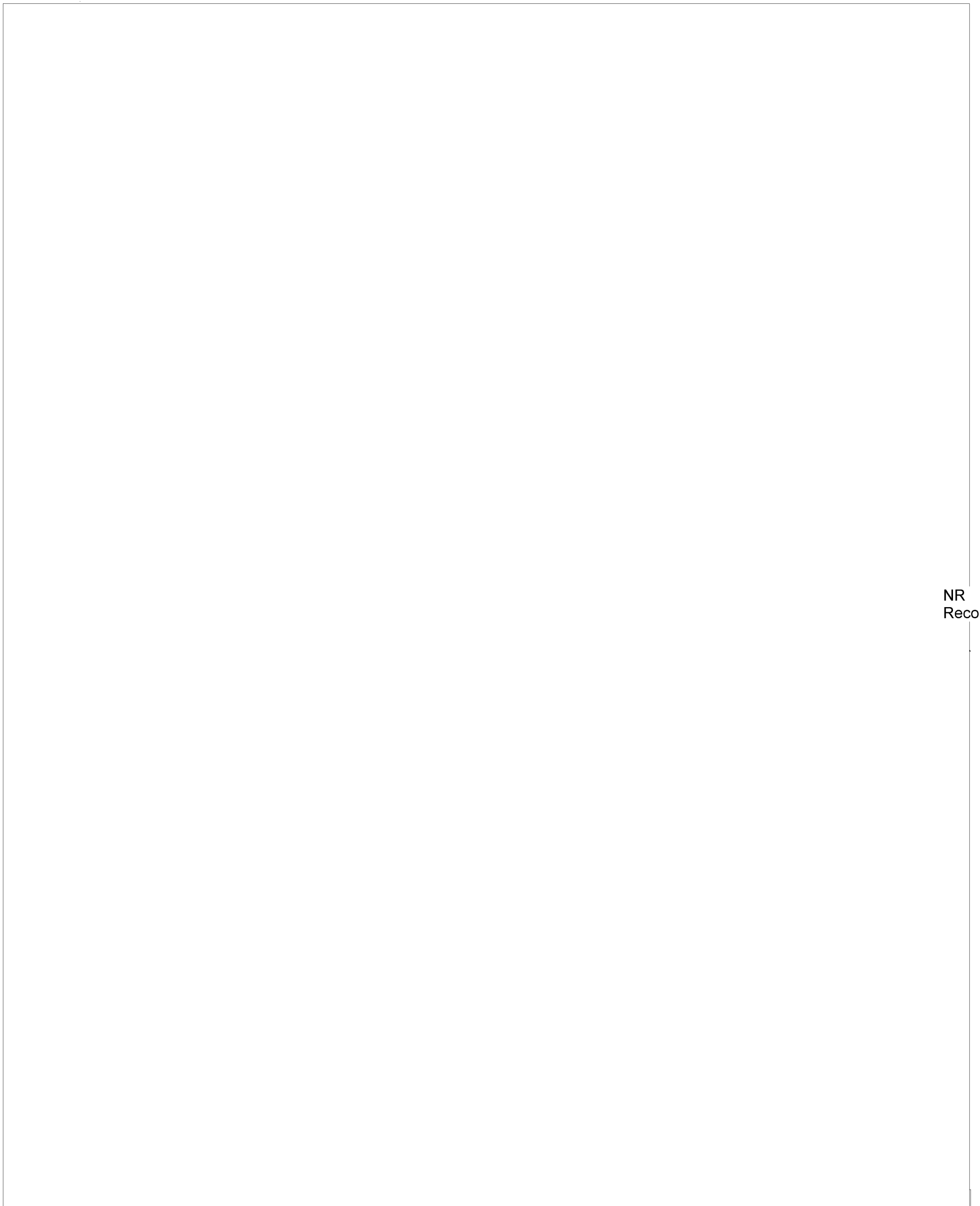
The national electric power company

This mounting opposition to the nuclear agreement and recent serious accidents at the power plant being built by Westinghouse will almost certainly cause serious delays in the development of Brazil's nuclear energy program.

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- REL...—This Information has been Authorized for Release to...