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Africa Review



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SOUTH AFRICA: NUCLEAR FACILITY UNDER CONSTRUCTION



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The South Africans are constructing a nuclear research facility at Faure, 25 kilometers east of Cape Town. The facility, known as the National Accelerator Center, will contain a cyclotron, a type of particle accelerator, which, according to a South African publication, will be capable of producing a 200-million electron volt proton beam. The South Africans reportedly plan to use the cyclotron to conduct basic nuclear research, produce radioisotopes, and treat selected forms of cancer.

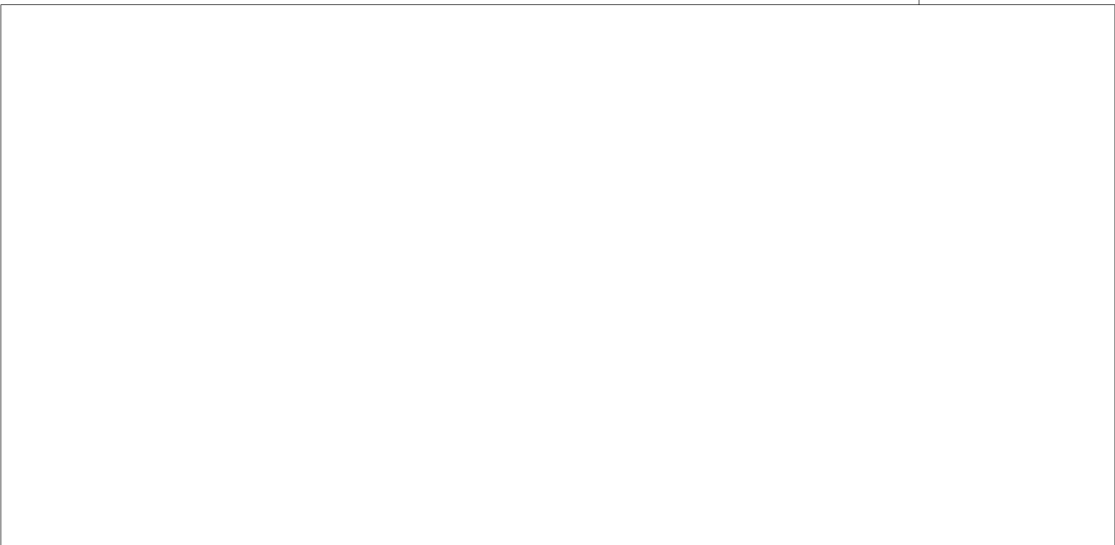


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The center could also assist the South Africans in a nuclear weapons development program. The cyclotron's proton beam could be manipulated to produce high-energy neutrons which are used by physicists to study materials selected for use in a weapon design. Although similar research could be done at a research center at Pelindaba, that reactor is being operated on a limited schedule because of a shortage of nuclear fuel.



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