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COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM FRANCE CONCERNING ITS POLICIES REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF PLUTONIUM

Voluntary Statement on Highly Enriched Uranium

1. The Director General has received a note verbale, dated 12 September 2001, from the Permanent Mission of France to the IAEA in the enclosures of which the Government of France has made available statements of the stocks of highly enriched uranium held by it as of 31 December 1999 and 31 December 2000. With reference to the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium (contained in INFCIRC/549 of 16 March 1998), the Permanent Mission of France has also conveyed in its note verbale that “Concerned to promote transparency in the management of highly enriched uranium used for peaceful nuclear activities, the Government of the French Republic has decided to publish, on a voluntary basis, information on the highly enriched uranium it holds for civil purposes”.

2. In the light of the request expressed by the Government of France in its note verbale of 28 November 1997 concerning its policies regarding the management of plutonium (INFCIRC/549 of 16 March 1998), and the request in its note verbale of 12 September 2001, the texts of the enclosures of the note verbale of 12 September 2001 are attached for the information of all Member States.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number.

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Translated from French

FRENCH REPUBLIC

PERMANENT MISSION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED
NATIONS OFFICE AND THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

NV 15/01

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations Office and the international organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to refer to its note verbale No. 50/97 of 28 November 1997 and to the policies that the Government of the French Republic has decided to adopt in the management of plutonium as specified in the Guidelines attached to that note verbale.

In that document, the Government of the French Republic recognized the sensitivity of highly enriched uranium and the need to manage it with the same sense of responsibility as the plutonium covered by the Guidelines. In its note verbale, the Government of the French Republic also expressed its belief that the management of highly enriched uranium should be subject to similar guidelines.

Concerned to promote transparency in the management of highly enriched uranium used for peaceful nuclear activities, the Government of the French Republic has decided to publish, on a voluntary basis, information on the highly enriched uranium it holds for civil purposes.

The Permanent Mission of France has the honour to attach to the present note statements of the stocks of highly enriched uranium held by the Government of the French Republic as of 31 December 1999 and 31 December 2000, respectively. It requests the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency to circulate this note and its attachments to all Member States for their information.

The Permanent Mission of France takes this opportunity of reiterating to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest esteem.

Vienna, 12 September 2001

Director General
IAEA, Vienna

ANNUAL FIGURES FOR HOLDINGS OF CIVIL HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM

<u>National Totals</u>	As of 31 December 1999 (previous year's figures in brackets) (figures rounded up to nearest kg)	
1 Highly enriched uranium stored at enrichment plants.	0 kg	(0 kg)
2 Highly enriched uranium in the course of fabrication at enrichment plants.	0 kg	(0 kg)
3 Highly enriched uranium at fuel fabrication plants or other processing facilities.	1 295 kg	(1 127 kg)
4 Highly enriched uranium at civil reactor sites.	3 050 kg	(3 077 kg)
5 Highly enriched uranium held at locations other than civil reactor sites and enrichment, fuel fabrication or processing plants (e.g. laboratories, research centres).	450 kg	(758 kg)
6 Irradiated highly enriched uranium at civil reactor sites.	192 kg	(229 kg)
7 Irradiated highly enriched uranium held at locations other than civil reactor sites.	814 kg	(705 kg)

ANNUAL FIGURES FOR HOLDINGS OF CIVIL HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM

<u>National Totals</u>	As of 31 December 2000 (previous year's figures in brackets) (figures rounded up to nearest kg)	
1 Highly enriched uranium stored at enrichment plants.	0 kg	(0 kg)
2 Highly enriched uranium in the course of fabrication at enrichment plants.	0 kg	(0 kg)
3 Highly enriched uranium at fuel fabrication plants or other processing facilities.	1 226 kg	(1 295 kg)
4 Highly enriched uranium at civil reactor sites.	3 065 kg	(3 050 kg)
5 Highly enriched uranium held at locations other than civil reactor sites and enrichment, fuel fabrication or processing plants (e.g. laboratories, research centres).	450 kg	(450 kg)
6 Irradiated highly enriched uranium at civil reactor sites.	224 kg	(192 kg)
7 Irradiated highly enriched uranium held at locations other than civil reactor sites.	962 kg	(814 kg)