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COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM CERTAIN MEMBER STATES CONCERNING THEIR POLICIES REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF PLUTONIUM

1. The Director General has received a note verbale, dated 17 September 1999, from the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the IAEA. In keeping with the United States' commitment under the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium (contained in INFCIRC/549 of 16 March 1998 and hereinafter referred to as the "Guidelines"), the government of the United States of America, in the enclosure of the note verbale of 17 September 1999, in accordance with Annexes B and C of the Guidelines, makes available an annual statement of its national holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium and of plutonium contained in spent civil reactor fuel, as of 31 December 1997.
2. In light of the request expressed by the United States in its note verbale of 1 December 1997, concerning its policies regarding the management of plutonium (INFCIRC/549 of 16 March 1998), the texts of the enclosures of the note verbale of 17 September 1999 are attached for the information of all Member States.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number.
Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.

ANNUAL FIGURES FOR HOLDINGS OF CIVIL UNIRRADIATED PLUTONIUM

(Annex B, International Plutonium Management guidelines)

National Totals	As of 31 Dec. 1997 [Previous year's figures in brackets.] Rounded to 1000 kg plutonium Quantities <500 kg reported as such	
1. Unirradiated separated plutonium in product stores at reprocessing plants.	<u>0</u>	[<u>0</u>]
2. Unirradiated separated plutonium in the course of manufacture or fabrication and plutonium contained in unirradiated semi-fabricated or unfinished products at fuel or other fabricating plants or elsewhere.	<u><0.05 T</u>	[<u><0.05 T</u>]
3. Plutonium contained in unirradiated MOX fuel or other fabricated products at reactor sites or elsewhere.	<u>4.6*T</u>	[<u>4.6*T</u>]
4. Unirradiated separated plutonium held elsewhere.	<u>40.4*T</u>	[<u>40.4*T</u>]
(i) Plutonium in lines 1-4 belonging to foreign bodies.	<u>0</u>	[<u>0</u>]
(ii) Plutonium in any of the forms in lines 1-4 above held in locations in other countries and therefore not included above.	<u>0</u>	[<u>0</u>]
(iii) Plutonium included in lines 1-4 above which is in international shipment prior to its arrival in the recipient State.	<u>0</u>	[<u>0</u>]

* Lines 3 and 4 together list 45 tonnes of separated plutonium that had originally been produced or acquired as part of our national defense effort. Along with 7.5 tonnes of the 15 tonne total listed on line 3 of Annex C below, this constitutes the total 52.5 tonnes of plutonium that the United States has declared excess to defense needs.¹ Since it is no longer “military” and will never again be used in nuclear weapons, that material is listed here,² but there exists no separated plutonium in the U.S. or other than that which was produced or acquired in the past for defense-related purposes.³

¹ Bilateral agreements between the United States and Russia have called for the removal of approximately 50 tons of plutonium from each state’s nuclear weapons programs. The precise amount of “material declared excess to defense needs” is published periodically by DOE’s Office of Defense Programs.

² It does not result from civilian production; the U.S. has never engaged in reprocessing on a commercial scale for nuclear power purposes. Article 3 of the guidelines stipulates that Annex B include “other plutonium after it has been designated by the Government concerned as no longer required for defense purposes.”

³ Which material is and shall remain subject to the strictest U.S. physical security and control.

ESTIMATED AMOUNTS OF PLUTONIUM CONTAINED IN SPENT CIVIL REACTOR FUEL

(Annex C, International Plutonium Management guidelines)

National Totals

As of 31 Dec. 1997
[Previous year's figures
in brackets.]
Rounded to 1000 kg plutonium
Quantities <500 kg reported as such

1. Plutonium contained in spent fuel at civil reactor sites.	<u>287 T</u>	[<u>270 T</u>]
2. Plutonium contained in spent fuel at reprocessing plants.	<u>0</u>	[<u>0</u>]
3. Plutonium contained in spent fuel held elsewhere.	<u>15**T</u>	[<u>13**T</u>]

Notes:

As specified in guidelines, the treatment of material sent for direct disposal will need further consideration when specific plans for direct disposal have taken concrete form.

** The amount referred to in line 3 includes 7.5 tonnes of plutonium in spent fuel that was originally generated or acquired for defense purposes but which was not reprocessed to extract the plutonium. It is secured at USG facilities. Again, together with the amounts specified in lines 3 and 4 in Annex B above, this quantity constitutes the total amount of plutonium that has been declared excess to defense needs.

The remaining 7.5 tonnes indicated by line 3 describes plutonium in spent fuel from civil reactors which is presently stored at sites other than reactor sites. The entire amount of the increase from last year (two tonnes) is due to a correction of the data and has not been newly produced.