Egypt Nuclear Chronology


Last update: February 2011

This annotated chronology is based on the data sources that follow each entry. Public sources often provide conflicting information on classified military programs. In some cases we are unable to resolve these discrepancies, in others we have deliberately refrained from doing so to highlight the potential influence of false or misleading information as it appeared over time. In many cases, we are unable to independently verify claims. Hence in reviewing this chronology, readers should take into account the credibility of the sources employed here.

Inclusion in this chronology does not necessarily indicate that a particular development is of direct or indirect proliferation significance. Some entries provide international or domestic context for technological development and national policymaking. Moreover, some entries may refer to developments with positive consequences for nonproliferation.

2011-2008

1 February 2011
In response to widespread protests, President Hosni Mubarak announces that he will not seek re-election in the September 2011 elections. Since the protesters are calling for Mubarak to immediately step down from power, political unrest is ongoing in Egypt. [Note: While the immediate implications for Egypt's nuclear program are unclear, policy changes seem likely. At the very least, there are likely to be delays to the government's nuclear power project.]

17 January 2011
Minister of Electricity and Energy Hassan Younes announces that the government plans to issue a tender for the construction of Egypt's first four nuclear power plants within the next two weeks.

25 August 2010
President Hosni Mubarak announces, definitively, that Egypt's first nuclear power plant will be built at El-Dabaa. There had been much debate over whether the plant should be built in the coastal town of El-Dabaa.

30 March 2010
President Hosni Mubarak ratifies a law intended to govern Egypt's nuclear program. [Note: According to a 13 April 2010 White House press release, which highlighted national commitments made at the Nuclear Security Summit,

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the comprehensive nuclear law Egypt passed in March 2010 included "nuclear security, criminalization of sabotage and illicit trafficking provisions as well as envisaging an independent regulatory authority." See also: NTI Egypt Nuclear Chronology 30 December 2009].

24 February 2010
Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy Hassan Younis declares on the ministry's Web site that the French company Areva has expressed interest in competing in the tender for Egypt's first nuclear power plant, scheduled to take place later this year.

18 January 2010
Egypt requests help from the state-run Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to train nuclear engineers. KOICA runs a training program for developing countries.

30 December 2009
Egyptian Minister of Energy and Electricity Hassan Younis indicates the government will create new regulations in 2010 that will enable it to move forward with its planned nuclear power program.
—"Egypt; Minister, New Nuclear Regulations in 2010," ANSAmed, 30 December 2010.

22 December 2009
Worley Parsons finishes a report on Al-Dabaa, the planned site (north of Cairo) for Egypt's first nuclear power plant.

27 November 2009
The European Union is slated to provide Egypt with assistance developing its civil nuclear sector via a nuclear safety program, which will include workshops on nuclear safety and radioactivity monitoring. Minister of Energy and Electricity Hassan Younis announces that Egyptian government officials are currently meeting with EU representatives in Cairo to discuss the program’s implementation.

24 June 2009
Sergey Kiriyenko, head of Rosatom, announces to the media that Egypt has officially invited Russia to participate in the tender, currently scheduled to take place sometime in 2010, for the construction of Egypt's first nuclear power plant.

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18 June 2009
Egypt announces the signing of a deal with WorleyParsons for a nuclear power plant consultancy. Under the 8-year contract, worth approximately $160 million, the Australian firm will assist Egypt in developing its civil nuclear sector. Specifically, the WorleyParsons press release states that, "The contract commences with site and technology selection studies and carries through to design, construction management, commissioning and startup." Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif calls the deal "an important step...in achieving the aim of transforming Egypt into a pivotal regional hub for all forms of energy." While Bechtel originally won the tender, the deal later fell through [See NTI Egypt Nuclear Chronology 24 December 2008 and 3 May 2009].


6 May 2009
The contents of a confidential IAEA report on Egypt, leaked to Reuters, become public. The IAEA report cites the discovery of trace amounts of highly enriched uranium (HEU), of unspecified grade, in environmental swipe samples taken by IAEA inspectors at the Inshas nuclear site in 2007-2008. Egyptian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hossam Zaki says, "It is surprising that the IAEA let some newspapers and news agencies obtain and publish information from a report which will be a matter of discussion next June," and questions the "motives behind the sudden leak of these classified documents." Mohamed El-Qollali, chairman of Egypt’s Atomic Energy Agency (EAEA) also responds, saying "leaked allegations that Egypt has enriched uranium are entirely unfounded," and that the containers had been imported for medical and agricultural research. "We told [the IAEA] that the containers were the source of the uranium particles and they accepted this explanation," said El-Qollali.


3 May 2009
Egypt drops Bechtel as the consultant for its first nuclear reactor, and chooses the Australian company WorleyParsons to take over the consultation contract. WorleyParsons originally came in second to Bechtel during the bidding process. The Egyptian Ministry of Electricity declines to give a reason for dropping Bechtel.


24 December 2008
Egypt chooses Bechtel as the consultant for its first nuclear reactor. The 10-year consultancy is worth $181 million

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and is part of President Hosni Mubarak's announced nuclear power project.

4 December 2008
The current financial crisis affects Egypt's nuclear power plans. It "suddenly made it a lot more difficult for countries like Egypt and some northern African states to afford nuclear power," says Kenneth Apt, a scientist from the U.S. firm E2 Consulting. In order to pay for future nuclear power plants, Egyptian Energy Minister Hassan Younis advises that Egypt will rely on lending from financial institutions. However, this may change as Egypt has not formed a post-crisis nuclear investment plan.
—Mark Hibbs, "GCC nuclear vision challenges Arab world's technology focus," Nucleonics Week, 4 December 2008.

13 November 2008
Speaking at the MENA Nuclear Energy Forum in Doha this week, Egyptian Energy Minister Hassan Younis announces that Egypt will make a final decision regarding the winning company in the international tender for construction of nuclear power reactors by the end of this year. Many sources indicate that U.S.-owned Bechtel is the leading contender, but this has not been confirmed. Younis also says that Egypt intends to award a contract by 2010 for the provision of two nuclear power reactors, which will be ready to operate by 2017 or 2018 at the latest. At the same time, Egypt will begin work on a second set of two power reactors to be operational by 2022.

11 November 2008
According to Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, Egypt and Russia sign documents agreeing to nuclear energy cooperation. "We have signed documents on the development of our ties in the sphere of using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Our specialists from the state corporation Rosatom are ready to begin specific consultations," Putin says.

26 October 2008
Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy Younis announces that Egypt will select the winner of the international contract for the construction of its first nuclear power plant by the end of November, and that construction will begin in 2009.

4 October 2008
At its Board of Governor's meeting in Vienna, the IAEA selects Egypt as one of the representatives for Africa. Egypt will sit on the Board of Governors for two years.

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4 May 2008
Egypt’s Minister of Electricity, Hassan Younis, announces that on 29 May 2008 Egypt will review the tender papers of 21 international consultancy houses that submitted bids to build Egypt’s first nuclear power plant. The tender includes consultation on locations, technologies, quality control and training of employees.

15 April 2008
During a meeting to discuss ways to improve bilateral trade between Bulgaria and Egypt, Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak discuss Egypt’s burgeoning nuclear energy industry as an area to which Bulgaria can lend assistance. President Parvanov says that, “Bulgaria is ready to help Egypt train cadres to operate the nuclear stations.” Bulgaria’s Ambassador to Cairo, Ivan Gaetanjiev, also cites Bulgaria’s maintenance experience as grounds for Bulgaria assisting Egypt in its nuclear energy program.

14 April 2008
Egyptian Minister of Electricity Hassan Younis announces that Egypt’s draft law on nuclear energy [Note: See NTI Chronology 29 October 2007] is finalized and has been submitted to the People’s Assembly and the Shura Council. The People’s Assembly and the Shura Council are responsible for officially endorsing the law.

30 March 2008
Egypt announces it will consider cooperating with France in the development of its nuclear energy sector.

25 March 2008
Russia and Egypt sign a nuclear cooperation agreement during Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak’s state visit to Russia. The agreement makes it official that Russia can bid on the international tender for the construction of Egypt’s four proposed nuclear reactors. The chief of Russia’s state-owned Atomstroieksport, Sergei Shmatko, has expressed interest in bidding on the project. President Mubarak affirms that Egypt will abide by the IAEA’s guidelines for nuclear technology.
3 February 2008
Mohamed El-Baradei, IAEA Director General, states that Egypt's first nuclear reactor will be operational by 2017 or 2018. El-Baradei's statements come after a series of talks held with Egypt's Minister of Electricity and Energy, Hassan Younis.

1 February 2008
The Egyptian government rejects U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman's offer to join the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP), because of the offer's condition that Egypt sign the Additional Protocol to the NPT.

16 January 2008
Given Egypt's interest in developing nuclear power, the international community is pressuring it to sign the Additional Protocol to the NPT, which would expand the IAEA's safeguards authority over the Egyptian nuclear program. Egypt remains adamant in its refusal to join the Additional Protocol, primarily citing Israel's non-NPT status as its rationale for non-participation. The United States, Canada, and France are conditioning support for Egypt's nuclear program on acceptance of the Additional Protocol. This is prompting Egypt to consider deals with countries such as Russia and China.

25 January 2007
Hans Blix, former head of UNMOVIC and former head of the IAEA, says that Egypt is at least ten years away from a nuclear capability. He is supportive of the country's nuclear ambitions saying that "I think it is desirable for world confidence that nuclear power is being used for peaceful purposes. A good and effective inspection system is needed. I hope Egypt joins as soon as possible." In addition, he urges Egypt to "sign additional protocols allowing for greater inspection oversight."

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3 February 2007
U.S. Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Robert Joseph expressed the United States' official support of Egypt's peaceful pursuit of nuclear technology. He states, "The U.S. is encouraging Egypt to go ahead in its peaceful nuclear program." This announcement came following a meeting between Joseph and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit.

15 March 2007
In a statement made by the World Bank Executive Director, Mohamed Kamel Amr, the "bank is ready to finance any Egyptian peaceful nuclear energy ventures if the government asked for it. Egypt's status inside the World Bank is strong now and has the potential to obtain any of the banks loans."

15 March 2007
The Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy, Hasan Yunis, says that the country is "currently training people, preparing the basic infrastructure and fielding sites for its project whose goal is to establish 10 nuclear-powered electricity generating stations across the country." Yunis emphasized the international acclaim that Egypt's nuclear plans are receiving. With such plans moving forward, eight billion Egyptian pounds were invested in the energy sector during the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

27 March 2007
At the recent Arab summit, Egypt proposed a plan "to forge closer military and security ties as well as cooperation on developing nuclear energy." It was not immediately clear what level of cooperation Egypt was seeking regarding nuclear issues. The proposal also calls for "a comprehensive review of the nuclear issues in the region" and that "member countries should develop their own nuclear strategies."

29 March 2007
The Egyptian minister of Electricity and Energy, Hasan Yunis, denies reports that the country is bowing to foreign pressure to suspend work on its nuclear program. He adds that "nuclear energy is one of the substitutes that are being studied to provide energy, and as soon as results are out, they will be referred to the People's Assembly and the Shura Council." He also adds that Egypt's exploration of its nuclear energy prospects have not stopped since it was originally announced by Egyptian President Mubarak.

10 April 2007
According to the Russian Minister of Industry and Energy, Russia and Egypt are drafting an agreement to work together in the field of nuclear energy. "The Federal Agency for Nuclear Power and Egypt's Ministry of Electricity

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and Energy are drafting new documents on cooperation in this field. We believe this not only corresponds to the spirit of our relations, but is also inline with the understanding of prospects for energy development in the long term," says Viktor Khristenko, the Russian Minister. The Russian news agency RIA Novosti is also claiming that Egypt has plans to build "three 600 megawatt nuclear plants."


17 April 2007

An Egyptian nuclear engineer who worked for Egypt's Atomic Energy Agency (AEA) is arrested and charged with spying for Israel. The engineer, Mohammed Sayed Saber Ali, is accused of delivering "important and secret information" about the AEA and one of Egypt's nuclear reactors to "Israeli intelligence elements." He is also said to have been in possession of a laptop equipped with coded software used for espionage which he allegedly received from persons affiliated with the Israeli intelligence service. The Israeli Foreign Ministry is skeptical about the accusations; Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev was quoted as saying "Unfortunately, all too often we see stories like this out of the Egyptian capital, stories which in the end prove to be totally without foundation."


17-19 April 2007

Egypt has charged three men with spying on their nuclear program for Israel. The accused include Mohammed Sayed Saber Ali of Egypt, Brian Peter of Ireland and Shiro Izo of Japan. The Egyptian authorities claim that Ali had "stolen important documents from the Atomic Energy Agency and passed them on to the Israeli intelligence service Mossad for $17,000 and a laptop." It is not immediately clear what role the other two men played and they have not been detained by Egyptian authorities yet. The Israeli embassy spokesman Benny Sharoni said "All that we know about this matter comes from the media. Up to the present, we have no official Egyptian information on the subject."


19 April 2007

The Egyptian and Russian governments have agreed on a cooperation protocol for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. While the protocol still has to be signed, the Russian ambassador to Egypt said that the agreement only covers the exchange of expertise and research, not the actual setting up of nuclear power plants.


25 April 2007

Following the recent case of espionage in Egypt, the country has decided to tighten control over its nuclear program. According to Cairo’s Al-Misriyun newspaper, the Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority will begin to monitor
its employees more rigorously and censor its reports. The paper also learned that there is a trend "in the coming stage to merge all agencies and departments related to the Egyptian nuclear program and to put them under the supervision of the High Council of Energy."

1 May 2007
Egypt will participate in the first preparatory meeting of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. At the meeting Egypt will present a paper on "the importance of disarming nuclear weapons and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The paper will underline the importance of freeing the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction." The paper will also claim that Israel has defied the will of the international community.

10 June 2007
Results from Egypt's technical studies on their proposed nuclear power plant in Dahab have been sent to the IAEA. The IAEA will review these studies and present Egypt with technical assistance based on the results and on Egypt's needs.
— "Egypt Studies of Egyptian Nuclear Station Sent to IAEA," InfoProd, 10 June 2007.

25 June 2007
Mohammed Sayyed Saber, an Egyptian atomic engineer was sentenced to 25 years in jail for spying for Israel and selling Egypt’s nuclear secrets. Saber's sentence was the harshest possible under Egyptian law. Saber pleaded not guilty to the charges and maintained that any information he had handed over was already public. He denied claims that he was a spy and insists he informed the Egyptian government of all his actions.

26 June 2007
Egypt sentenced Brian Peter, an Irish citizen, to life imprisonment in absentia. Peter was found guilty of spying on Egypt’s nuclear program for Israel. The Irishman was convicted for spying in connection with Mohammad Sayyed Saber, an Egyptian and Shiro Izo, a Japanese man.
— Mary Fitzgerald, "Irishman sentenced to life in absentia for spying," The Irish Times, 26 June 2007.

10 July 2007
Egypt’s Prime Minister, Ahmad Nazif, stated that the country's Supreme Energy Council was in the process of preparing a study to assess the best way to develop and utilize nuclear energy in the country. The Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy announced that the studies related to its pursuit of nuclear energy will be completed by the end of 2007. The Prime Minister said "it is not just about building a nuclear plant. It is rather about qualifying Egypt to become a nuclear energy country."

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13 August 2007
Egypt's Minister of State for Military Production, Sayyid Mish'al refuted claims that the country has uranium enrichment laboratories. He stated that such rumors were "aimed at striking Egypt's stability in favor of antagonistic powers." He asserted that both of Egypt's nuclear reactors were used for peaceful, legal purposes.
— "Minister denies Egypt has uranium-enrichment laboratories," BBC, 13 August 2007.

21 September 2007
Egypt is protesting the stance of the European Union (EU) regarding the country's proposal to the IAEA calling for IAEA standards to be applied to all Middle East states. While a majority of the 53 members voted in favor of Egypt's resolution, the United States and Israel opposed the proposal with the EU (excluding Ireland) abstaining. Egypt's resolution also called on the states of the Middle East not to develop nuclear weapons.

21 September 2007
The IAEA has moved to endorse a draft resolution calling for the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East. Although the IAEA endorsed Egypt's proposal, there were states who did not share in this support. Egypt has stated it will continue to call for such a zone until it becomes a reality.

25 October 2007
Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak announced his country's intentions to pursue nuclear energy on Monday, saying "We believe that energy security is a major part of building the future for this country and an integral part of Egypt's national security system." This announcement is notable as it is the first on the topic by the President himself. The idea of nuclear power was raised last year by the President's son, Gamal Mubarak, who is widely believed to be the successor to President Hosni Mubarak. Egypt faces a growing energy demand, with consumption increasing by a rate of about 7 percent per year. President Mubarak made clear during his announcement that Egypt's nuclear program would be carried out in concert with international partners as well as the IAEA and will be "within a framework of transparency and respect of communities to the nuclear non-proliferation system." Following the President's announcement, the U.S. Ambassador to Cairo, Francis Ricciardone, conveyed the United States' support for the Egyptian nuclear program saying that the United States was ready to help Egypt with technology and expertise.
"Middle East racing to nuclear power," Christian Science Monitor, 1 November 2007; "Envoy says USA "fully ready" to assist Egypt in its Nuclear Plans," BBC, 1 November 2007.

29 October 2007
Hassan Yunis, the Egyptian Electricity Minister said that the country’s draft of their unified nuclear law will be finalized soon. This law will cover aspects of law pertaining to activating the Egyptian nuclear security and worker permits.

30 October 2007
According to Hassan Yunis, Egyptian Minister of Electricity, "Nuclear Safety is a top priority for the Egyptian nuclear programme for peaceful purposes." In this statement he added that Egypt will choose an international consultancy house to complete the process necessary to choose sites for Egypt’s nuclear stations.
— "Egyptian Minister says nuclear safety "top priority"," BBC, 30 October 2007.

1 November 2007
The European Commission’s Commissioner for External Relations and Neighborhood Policy, Benita-Ferrero Waldner, announced they are ready to help Egypt with nuclear safety following Egyptian President Mubarak’s declaration of his intent to construct nuclear reactors in Egypt.
— "Egypt, EC prepare memorandum of understanding for cooperation in energy domain," BBC, 1 November 2007.

1 November 2007
Following Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak’s announcement of his country's nuclear energy plans, the Egyptian cabinet approved the formation of a supreme council to cover issues regarding peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
— "Egyptian cabinet approves presidential decree on peaceful use of nuclear energy," BBC, 1 November 2007.

2 November 2007
Egyptian Minister of Electricity, Hasan Yunis announced that of the 17 studies required to find sites for the country’s nuclear reactors, 13 have been completed, with the remaining four underway. He also refused to disclose the fate of the Daba’a site, saying only that it remained property of the Nuclear Energy Commission.
— "Egyptian minister says studies to find site for nuclear plants continue," BBC, 2 November 2007.

3 November 2007
The Egyptian Minister of State for Economic Development, Usaman Muhammad Usman says the Egyptian government is actively pursuing the financial credits necessary to establish the country’s planned nuclear energy station.

7 November 2007
In light of Egypt's nuclear aspirations, a team from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will visit Egypt on 20 December 2007. The visit will cover issues relating to cooperation between the IAEA and Egypt on their nuclear
program and tangible future steps for each party.
— "IAEA delegation to visit Egypt 20 December- Egyptian Official," BBC, 7 December 2007.

9 November 2007
The Israeli Strategic Affairs Minister, Avigdor Lieberman told the Jerusalem Post that "if Egypt and Saudi Arabia begin nuclear programs this can bring an apocalyptic scenario upon us. Their intentions should be taken seriously and the declarations being made now are to prepare the world for when they decide to actually do it." The Israeli minister’s remark followed Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak’s announcement that Egypt planned to pursue a nuclear program last month.
— "‘Apocalyptic scenario’ if Egypt, Saudis start nuclear programs Lieberman warns. Strategic Affairs minister says he also fears Pakistani nukes falling into ‘radical hands’," Jerusalem Post, 9 November 2007.

9 November 2007
Egypt's foreign minister, Ahmad Abu-al-Gayt expressed his country's approval for Saudi Arabia's proposal to form a regional complex for enriched uranium. Although doubtful, he expressed hope that Iran would agree to the proposal.

26 November 2007
Egyptian state news agency MENA reports that Russia has agreed to provide Egypt with "nuclear know-how and technical expertise." This announcement by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Kislyak comes on the heels of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's declaration of his country's intention to build several nuclear power plants to meet Egypt's growing energy needs.
— "Egypt: Russia agrees to provide nuclear know-how," Reuters, 26 November 2007.

29 November 2007
Egypt announces that, in December, an international tender for the country's first nuclear reactor will be launched. The consulting firm selected will choose the site for the reactor. Al-Dab'ah is at the top of the list, according to the IAEA.

14 December 2007
Russia announces that it intends to sign a nuclear energy cooperation agreement with Egypt. The agreement with Russia is one of many similar agreements Egypt has signed with Asian and European countries to develop its nuclear energy industry.

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29 December 2007
During a news conference in Egypt, French President Nicolas Sarkozy announces France’s intentions to cooperate with Egypt in the development of nuclear energy for civil purposes.

30 December 2007
Iran's former national security advisor Ali Larijani expresses Iran’s willingness to cooperate with Egypt in the field of nuclear technology.

2006
16 January 2006
In reference to Iran, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu al-Ghayt states that Egypt upholds the right of NPT members to peaceful nuclear energy, but does not support a new nuclear weapons power in the region. Also, Abu al-Ghayt stresses "that Iran should reassure the international community that its nuclear programme is purely for civilian purposes." He adds, Egypt agrees with NATO that WMD proliferation is a danger and feels that the situation with Iran "highlights the need for the international community to bear its responsibilities and take concrete steps in making the Middle East a region free of weapons of mass destruction." In light of the failure of the nuclear talks, Egypt supports referral of Iran to the United Nations Security Council.

17 January 2006
Egypt concludes an agreement with the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), which is acknowledged as a center of major particle physics research. This agreement allows five Egyptian researchers to travel to Geneva to participate in nuclear physics research.

22 January 2006
A technical committee of the Arab League meets to begin the drafting of a Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone treaty for the Middle East. One of the main topics of discussion was a draft protocol on nuclear facilities and

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27 January 2006
Talks between Russia and Egypt on a Russian proposal to construct a civilian nuclear infrastructure in Egypt resume. An unnamed source says that Egypt is hoping to gain the ability to produce the complete nuclear fuel cycle on its soil.

1 February 2006
In a joint news conference between Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt and Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, Abu-al-Ghayt reaffirms Egypt's commitment to establishing a Middle Eastern Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone.

4 February 2006
Egypt insists on including a paragraph on international efforts to form a Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone in the Middle East in the resolution to refer Iran to the United Nations Security Council. This caused the IAEA Council of Governors to postpone the vote on the draft resolution for two days. The wording was softened from Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone to Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone. The inclusion of the paragraph was supported by Russia, China, Europe, and eventually the United States. The necessity of making the NPT universal to prevent the Middle East from becoming "a region of nuclear dispute" has been highlighted by Egypt. The text of the paragraph on the Middle Eastern WMD-Free Zone states: "Recognizing that a solution to the Iranian issue would contribute to global non-proliferation efforts and to realizing the objectives of a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, including their means of delivery."

22 February 2006
In response to President Bush's offer to aid developing countries and friendly nations in the Middle East to develop peaceful nuclear energy, jailed Egyptian opposition leader Ayman Nour inquires of U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice whether Egypt could participate in such a program. Nour anticipates that Egypt would require six 2,000 megawatt reactors to generate half of its electricity, which would release the country from its dependence on natural gas.

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22 February 2006
During a press conference with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abu-al-Ghayt states that Egypt supports a Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone in the Middle East. In addition, Abu-al-Ghayt reiterates that Egypt would like the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to be universal, which would require Israel to join. Also, Abu-al-Ghayt says that Egypt wants to apply the same standard of compliance to all countries in the Middle East, which is an allusion to Iran and Israel. Rice states that the United States feels that Iran is more of a concern than the Israeli nuclear weapons program or a Middle Eastern Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone.


23 February 2006
During South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun’s visit to Egypt, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak states that he admires South Korea’s attempt to rid the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons.


26 February 2006
Egypt and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries state that a Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone should be formed in the Middle East.


28 February 2006
In the plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament, Egypt as well as Brazil, Sweden, Norway, Syria, and the Netherlands state their disagreement with military doctrines that emphasize nuclear weapons. These countries also express their concern with the United States’ policy of creating new types of nuclear weapons and preemption.


28 February 2006
At the Arab Parliamentary Union meeting, Egypt expresses its desire for a Middle Eastern Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone. In addition, Egypt states that a draft resolution requiring Israel to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty should be submitted to the United Nations.


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28 February 2006
Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Kislyak meets with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abu-al-Ghayt where it is expected that they will discuss President Mubarak's initiative to form a Middle East Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone.
— German Krylov, "Russian Deputy FM to Discuss Nonproliferation in Egypt," ITAR-TASS, 27 February 2006.

4 March 2006
At their 125th foreign ministers meeting, the Arab League expresses their support for a Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone in the Middle East. The League also would like Israel to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty because it believes that is the only way to ensure "stability and security in the Middle East."

28 March 2006
At the 18th Arab League summit, the Secretary-General Amr Mousa [former Egyptian foreign minister] urges the member states to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes to ensure future energy supplies. Mousa says that the Arab states should "enter into the nuclear club and make use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes."

11 April 2006
The statement by Egyptian representative Amr Abou El Atta at the United Nations Disarmament Commission expresses Egypt's concern at the lack of progress in implementing a Middle Eastern Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and disarmament.

14 April 2006
Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak states that Egypt would like to form a Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone with all states in the region, which is a reference to Israel's alleged nuclear weapons program.
— "Egyptian Leader Says Own Statements on Shiites Cast No Doubt on Loyalty to Iraq," Middle East News Agency, 14 April 2006.

18 April 2006
Amr Mousa, the Secretary-General of the Arab League, expresses his disapproval of the United States along with other states for ignoring Israel's alleged nuclear weapons program. He states: "Supporting the nuclear armament of certain countries in the region, while rejecting the nuclear programs of other countries is a baseless argument that makes matters extremely dangerous." In a reference to Iran, Mousa states that members of the Nuclear Non-

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Proliferation Treaty have the right to pursue peaceful nuclear energy programs.

19 April 2006
During French President Jacques Chirac's visit, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak reaffirms Egypt's commitment to a Middle Eastern Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone. Chirac expresses his agreement with this goal. Also, Mubarak reiterates Egypt's concern over Israel's alleged nuclear weapons program and resistance to signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

29 April 2006
While visiting Tehran, Ambassador Mohammed Ibrahim Shaker, the Deputy Chairman of the Egyptian Foreign Affairs Council, states that Iran could join Egypt in the creation of a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone.
— "Egyptian Diplomat Asks Iran to Subject Nuclear Activities to IAEA," Middle East News Agency, 29 April 2006, in Open Source Document GMP20060429710023.

5 May 2006
In a media interview, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt asserts that his country has been putting forth initiatives in the United Nations for 32 years to create a Middle Eastern Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone. He says Egypt has "been proposing such resolutions every year, and we have been participating in the work of the IAEA and NPT conferences. Egyptian stands are well-known and active and enjoy international support."

13 May 2006
The "Developing Eight", of which Egypt is a member, adopts the Bali Declaration during the fifth D-8 Summit. The declaration states that "we reaffirm our commitment to enhance cooperation in the field of energy to develop alternative and renewable energy resources, among others bio-fuel, biomass, hydro, solar, wind and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes."
— Riyadi Suparno and Abdul Khalik, "D-8 Endorses Bali Declaration, Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, Urges Debt Relief," Jakarta Post, 14 May 2006, in Open Source Center Document SEP20060514015012; "Developing 8 Countries: VII. Developments Since the Fourth Summit (Tehran) and Declaration of the Fifth Summit (Bali)," Republic of Turkey, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2006.

19 May 2006
Egypt opposes the United States' new draft of the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty that was presented to the United Nations Disarmament Commission. Egypt insists that the agreement include existing stocks of fissile materials as well as a means of verification.

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20 May 2006
During a speech at the World Economic Forum in Sharm al-Shaykh, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak says that Egypt hopes for "a world that deals with weapons of mass destruction, foremost of which the nuclear weapon, without politicizing or [adopting] double standards." He also discusses the need for a Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone.

29 May 2006
During an interview with a Spanish newspaper, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt discusses Egypt's stance regarding the international debate surrounding Iran's nuclear program. He states that "there are some principles which mark our position. Firstly, the right of any country to nuclear energy for peaceful ends, as accepted by the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). And secondly, we oppose the introduction of nuclear weapons in this region. Therefore we are promoting the establishing of a region free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear ones. We have asked Israel, because everybody talks about its nuclear capability, to join the NPT. And we call on other countries not to protect Israel and ask the same of it. Nuclearization will lead to proliferation of other powers. The resolving of the crisis is a matter for the five permanent members of the Security Council plus the EU."

31 May 2006
In the final document of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Foreign Ministerial Conference, Egypt is successful in pressing for the inclusion of a paragraph regarding the creation of a Middle Eastern Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone.

22 June 2006
The United States and Egypt sign an agreement to cooperate in an effort to halt nuclear smuggling by sea. United States Customs and Border Protection and the National Nuclear Security Administration signed a "declaration of principles" with Egyptian officials. This agreement extends two U.S. security programs into Egypt: the Customs and Border Patrol's Container Security Initiatives (CSI), which "identifies high-risk ocean cargo containers destined for the United States," and the NNSA's Megaports program, in which "radiation detection equipment [is installed to] detect and interdict illicit shipments of nuclear and other radioactive materials."

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
24 June 2006
On the Egyptian television program Beyond the Scene, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt makes a reference to the Iranian nuclear issue and reaffirms that a Middle East weapons of mass destruction free zone should be created.

27 June 2006
Dhananjay Ravat, a geophysicist at Southern Illinois University, will work with the director of research at the Egyptian Nuclear Materials Authority, Ahmed Salem, on a project to search for new ways to measure the temperature of the Earth. This will entail an exchange of Southern University of Illinois students with Egyptian scientists. Ravat estimates that the first group of Egyptian scientists will come to the United States in spring of 2007.

7 September 2006
The Arab League approves a resolution to encourage peaceful nuclear programs in member countries and the undertaking of joint research in nuclear technology. In addition, at an Arab League Conference in Manama, Bahrain, members receive advice to look into developing nuclear technology to hedge against Iran’s possible nuclear weapons program. Egypt, along with the Gulf Cooperation Council member states, reiterates the need to free the Middle East of nuclear weapons. They also include a statement insisting that Israel dismantle its nuclear weapons program and become a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

7 September 2006
At a press conference with British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett, Secretary-General of the Arab League Amr Musa states that all Arab states have the right to peaceful nuclear programs, and that there will be executive measures relating to such activities in the future. Also, Musa advocates diplomacy as a solution to the Iranian nuclear issue and the establishment of a Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone.

7 August 2006
The vice-chairman of the Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority, professor Laila Fikri Fouad, is part of a delegation from the African Regional Co-operative Agreement (AFRA), which is meeting in Zimbabwe, that aims to inform leaders on issues related to nuclear technology, including: benefits, training, and research and development. The delegation is anticipated to recommend that the region not rely on other states for nuclear technology. Some of the areas that have been discussed for using nuclear technology are: cancer treatment, radiation protection and safety, sterilization of medical supplies, and food preservation.

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18-19 September 2006
A resolution requesting that Israel join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in order to form a Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone is submitted to the 50th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. There are 15 states sponsoring the resolution, including Egypt. The last time that a resolution of this nature was brought to the International Atomic Energy Agency was in 1991 where it was passed.

18-22 September 2006
At the 50th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Egypt is one of many countries that declares its intentions to explore nuclear energy. Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy, the Egyptian ambassador to the United Nations, clarifies that Egypt is not intending to enrich uranium and only wants to build power plants.

19 September 2006
During a speech at the ruling National Democratic Party, Gamal Mubarak, the son of President Hosni Mubarak and assistant secretary general of the NDP and head of the policies committee, announces that Egypt should pursue a peaceful nuclear program. He did not go into the specifics of such a program. Gamal Mubarak insists that it is needed to meet Egypt's growing energy demands, which increase about 7% each year, because there is only a limited supply of natural energy resources. He also reiterates the right of members of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to engage in peaceful nuclear activities. Insisting that this is not a new idea, Mubarak states that the idea of a civilian nuclear program has been talked about for the past year. This statement was well received by the leading politicians of Egypt.

21 September 2006
According to the U.S. ambassador to Egypt, Francis Ricciardone, the United States would be willing to work with Egypt if they engage in a civilian nuclear program. Ricciardone mentions the Global Nuclear Energy Program as a possible framework for cooperation with Egypt.

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21 September 2006
At the end of the governing National Democratic Party conference, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak requests that Egypt seriously consider nuclear energy as a way to meet energy needs in the face of a shortage in national oil and gas reserves. Currently, the Egyptian government is providing subsidized oil and gas to its citizens, which is costing billions. President Mubarak also states that all of the forms of alternative energy, Egypt has experience with nuclear technology. In addition, Mubarak affirms that energy is a part of the concern for Egypt’s national security.

22 September 2006
A resolution encouraging Middle Eastern countries to submit to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards and to work on the formation of a Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone passes at the 50th General Conference of the IAEA. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt states that this development is a positive step towards nonproliferation and a Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, which, in his opinion, is a jumping off point for Egyptian efforts in this area. Abu-al-Ghayt states that International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Mohammed El Baradei and other nuclear countries need to commit to working seriously on the implementation of the resolution. He also requests that Israel join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and submit their nuclear program to safeguards. In addition, Abu-al-Ghayt communicates his dismay that several countries blocked the vote on the resolution on Israeli nuclear capabilities. He states that the West should take the Israeli nuclear weapons program as seriously as they do the Iranian nuclear issue to show their unbiased commitment to nonproliferation.

24 September 2006
The recently established Supreme Council of Energy, headed by Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmad Nazif, chooses to pursue alternative sources of energy, which will include nuclear power. Other sources indicate that the Council is not new, but has lain dormant for 20 years. Also, the Council forms a five-member ministerial committee made up of ministers of petroleum, finance, electricity, economic development, and planning. This committee has the task
of determining the course of action for developing nuclear power, as well as researching the financial and technical requirements. The committee is intended to accelerate the development of the program. The first meeting will occur after Ramadan.

Minister of Electricity and Energy Hassan Younes states that Egypt intends to construct a 1,000 megawatt nuclear power plant in the Al-Dabaa region that could be operational as soon as 2015. He estimates that this project will cost about $1.5 billion and therefore Egypt will pursue foreign funding. The former chairman of the Nuclear Security Center, Ahmed al-Qadi, states "that the al-Dabaa reactor could produce more electricity than the Aswan High Dam." [Note: the dam produces 2.1 gigawatts of hydroelectric power.] Also, there have been reports by government sources in several newspapers that the government also has plans to construct three 600 megawatt nuclear power plants, which would be completed by 2020. In addition, sources quote Younes as saying that possible sites have been found for reactors with a maximum capacity of 5,000 megawatts. Other sources state that Younes has refuted the claim that Egypt intends to construct nuclear power plants in al-Dabaa. Originally, the Egyptian nuclear power program was halted in 1986 after the disaster at Chernobyl. Egypt has made no mention of pursuing a uranium enrichment program.

Former Egyptian Electricity Minister, Ali el-Saidi, welcomes Egypt's decision to develop civilian nuclear energy. El-Saidi is also a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency's consultative committee and the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs. He states that the International Atomic Energy Agency would aid Egypt in setting up their nuclear program. In addition, the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs has set up a working group of nuclear energy experts to research the requirements for a civilian nuclear program in Egypt. He states that, "Egypt has all the potential to launch this program."


25 September 2006

Officials in Egypt state that the nuclear program is only intended to provide a source of energy and there are no
plans to use this technology to produce weapons.

**25 September 2006**

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert states that he does not believe that the Egyptian civilian nuclear program constitutes a military threat. He also asserts his opinion that Egypt will "submit itself to the real, genuine effective control of the International Atomic Energy Agency," and thereby preclude its use as a military program.

**26 September 2006**

Egypt is selected as the first Middle Eastern state to have the Pugwash conference on science and world affairs. The conference will take place on November 11 and 12. Some of the items on the agenda is nuclear nonproliferation, a Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, and a regional security system.

**26 September 2006**

Jean-Baptiste Mattei, a spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry, states that "Egypt has a 'legal' right [to] use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes...as a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty." In addition, Mattei expresses France's support for a Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and a United Nations Resolution on Israel joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

**26 September 2006**

The Egyptian Consultative Council, the upper house of the Egyptian parliament announces that it will pursue a popular campaign to promote support for Egypt's peaceful nuclear energy program.

**26 September 2006**

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak plans to conduct talks on Egypt's peaceful nuclear program with Russia and China in his upcoming visits.

**27 September 2006**

Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy Hassan Younes states that the National Center for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control will become an independent entity that will supervise and control licensing of nuclear activities in Egypt.

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28 September 2006
Russian Ambassador to Egypt Mikhail Bogdanov states that Russia would be willing to work with Egypt in developing a peaceful nuclear program. Bogdanov reveals that a draft economic trade agreement with provisions for peaceful nuclear collaboration is expected to be signed during an upcoming visit to Russia by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He also touts Russia’s experience with peaceful nuclear technology, which could be very helpful for Egypt. Bogdanov points out that Egypt is allowed to pursue a peaceful nuclear program if it abides by its treaty commitments.

29 September 2006
In an interview, Dr. Efrayim Sne who is head of the Labour Party bloc in the Israeli Knesset and a member of the Knesset’s Foreign and Security Affairs Committee states that if the Egyptian nuclear program is peaceful, then he does not foresee any problems.

29 September 2006
A report entitled “Close Associates of Jamal Mubarak Deny that He is Coordinating with the United States Regarding the Nuclear Project: Jamal’s Opponents Stress that he is Trying to Gain Popularity,” authored by Husam Abu-Talib appears in Al-Quds al-Arabi, an Arabic newspaper published in London. The report claims that members of the Policies Committee of the National Democratic Party, of which Mubarak is the head, have rejected claims that Mubarak and the United States are collaborating on the Egyptian civilian nuclear program.

29 September 2006
Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt states that Egypt is permitted to develop a peaceful nuclear program under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and that Egypt has applied International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards in a "literal" manner. Also, he stresses that advancements in technology have led to the development of safer and more secure nuclear power stations, which has caused more countries to consider nuclear power. Abu-al-Ghayt expresses Egypt’s approval of nuclear countries’ encouragement of other states to develop peaceful nuclear programs.

1 October 2006
The Industrial Production Committee of the upper house of the Egyptian Parliament, the Shura Council, meets to discuss peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The committee headed by Mohamed Farid Khamis will look into working papers on the subject.
— "Egypt: Shura Council to Discuss Peaceful Usage of Nuclear Energy 1 Oct," Middle East News Agency, OSC

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2 October 2006

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert says that there is no concern over Egypt's decision to resume its nuclear energy program because he is sure that Egypt will submit its new facilities to International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. Also, he states that Israel is willing to aid Egypt in constructing and operating the nuclear reactors.

2 October 2006

The Supreme Council for Energy has its first meeting to debate different sources of alternative energy. At the meeting, Electricity and Energy Minister Hassan Yunis proposes plans to construct a 1,000 megawatt nuclear reactor that would be operational in 10 years.
— "Egypt's Nuclear Bombshell, New Era or Marketing Ploy?" Turkish Daily News, 2 October 2006.

3 October 2006

During a speech at a meeting of with the foreign ministers of eight Arab states, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice states that the U.S. is in favor of any country pursuing a nuclear energy program "for the diversification of energy resources," with the provision that they do not engage in uranium enrichment. Also, Rice says that the U.S. is willing to cooperate with Egypt.
— Pakinam Amer, "Roundup: Rice Rallies Support for Palestinian President Abbas," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 4 October 2006; "Rice, Egyptian Foreign Minister Exchange Words in Cairo-Saudi Daily," BBC, 7 October 2006.

3 October 2006

Egypt's Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt states that Egypt is in earnest about reviving its nuclear energy program and that they will speak with the following countries about aiding them in their objective: U.S., China, the EU, Russia, Japan, and other Arab states. He also affirms that the Egyptian program has faced no opposition from the U.S., and that the program is a separate issue from the nuclear programs of Iran and Israel. Also, Abu-al-Ghayt reiterates Egypt's call to form a Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone.
— "Egyptian Foreign Minister Regrets Palestinian Violence, Comments on Sudan," Middle East News Agency, 3 October 2006.

3 October 2006

A donation fund for the Egyptian nuclear program is set up by the Industrial Production Committee of the Consultation Council, the upper parliamentary house. Electricity and Energy Minister Hassan Yunis acknowledges this gesture as more a declaration of support than a source of funding.

5 October 2006

Francis J. Ricciardone, the U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, states that the U.S. will send a group of nuclear energy
experts to Egypt in the near future to aid the Egyptians with their peaceful nuclear program. Also, he reiterates the willingness of the U.S. to work with the Egyptians on their nuclear program.


5 October 2006
Hassan Yunis, the Egyptian Electricity and Energy Minister, has a discussion with the Egyptian Nuclear Safety Authority about their future role in the revived Egyptian nuclear energy program. He says that they are working on an agreement whereby the Nuclear Safety Authority would be involved in every step of the project from design to day-to-day operation.


6 October 2006
In an interview, Electricity and Energy Minister Hassan Yunis discusses aspects of the Egyptian civilian nuclear program. He feels that the cost of the project will not be prohibitive and funding will be sought from international sources. Also, Yunis acknowledges that Egypt will require the aid of foreign experts, but that Egyptians already have some experience in this field. He states that there has been no decision on which country to approach for technical expertise. In addition, he expresses his belief that Al-Daba’a will be chosen as the location for the nuclear power plants and refutes rumors that the land was sold. According to Yunis, it was the Sidi Abd-al-Rahman site, which is 28 kilometers from Al-Daba’a that was sold.

— "Egypt's Energy Minister on Nuclear 'Dream'," Al-Ahram, in OSC Document: GMP20061006007002, 6 October 2006.

6 October 2006
Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt states in an interview that the Egyptian nuclear program will not "be a collective Arab effort," but that he will "listen to Arab viewpoints." He says that Egypt will talk to other Arab states in case they want to invest in the project and profit from the energy resources, but that there are currently no concrete plans.

— "Egyptian Foreign Minister on Palestinians, Lebanon, Darfur, Rice's Tour," BBC, 6 October 2006.

7 October 2006
U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Francis J. Ricciardone announces that a conference organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency on peaceful nuclear energy in developing countries will take place in Vienna sometime in December. It is expected that Egypt will be asked to attend to present the steps they are taking to launch their civilian nuclear program. Also, Ricciardone reiterates the U.S. willingness to contribute financial resources and technical expertise to Egypt's nuclear program. He says that several nuclear experts from the U.S. are expected to travel to Egypt in the next couple of days to discuss possible cooperation. Ricciardone feels that Egypt will need additional expertise to realize this program and cites past cooperation between the two countries as a possibility.

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for the future.

7 October 2006
At the Muslim Brotherhood banquet, the Coordinator-General of the National Front for Change Aziz Sidqi expresses his disdain for the Egyptian peaceful nuclear program because it has taken so long to implement and has been halted and restarted.

7-9 October 2006
The People's Assembly (lower house of parliament) Committee on Industry and Energy, under the direction of its chairman Mohamed Abul-Enein, is debating whether Egypt should pursue nuclear energy. The Minister of Electricity and Energy Hassan Yunis is expected to make a speech on how this goal can be achieved and the possible advantages. Also, the Minister of Petroleum Sameh Fahmi will explain the effect of nuclear power on oil usage. He states that nuclear energy is necessary to generate power for the future. At the end of the meeting, a report will be presented to the People's Assembly.
— "People's Assembly to Discuss Egypt's Use of Nuclear Energy," Middle East News Agency, in OSC Document: GMP20061004950040, 4 October 2006; "Egypt: Minister Says Electricity Generation From Nuclear Plants 'a Must,'" Middle East News Agency, in OSC Document: GMP20061011950010, 10 October 2006.

8 October 2006
Wu Sike, the Chinese Ambassador to Egypt, affirms that, as a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Egypt is within its rights to pursue a nuclear energy program.

8 October 2006
Jamal Mubarak, head of the National Democratic Party's Policy Committee and son of President Hosni Mubarak, states that there are no deals influencing the nuclear energy program. He says that the program is intended to address Egypt's dwindling oil and natural gas reserves. Also, Jamal Mubarak expresses his belief that this topic should be tackled at the national level and not fall prey to partisan politics.

9 October 2006
During a meeting of the Industry and Energy Committee of the People's Assembly, Dr. Hani Hillal is looking at a strategy for developing nuclear expertise in Egypt through research. Also, the Chairman Mohamed Abul-Enein states that there should be a conference at the national level to talk about the program and means of involving local businesses in the construction of the plants. The speaker for the committee Ahmad Fathi Surur states that the rise in oil prices and pollution concerns were responsible for the choice to pursue a nuclear power program.
— Muhammad al-Sa'dani, "Egypt: Electricity Minister Views Plans for Nuclear Power Stations," Al-Ahram, in OSC
9 October 2006
Several studies of possible sites for nuclear power plants, beyond the proposed Al-Daba`a site, will be conducted soon so that many plants can be constructed and ensure the continuity of the program. Hassan Yunis, the Minister of Electricity and Energy, says that the Egyptian nuclear program will be open-ended and does not have a set maximum number of plants. He says that there are plans to construct two stations at once. According to Yunis, Egypt will also look at setting up nuclear-powered desalination plants on the Red and Mediterranean Seas.

Also, he assures that Egypt will not pursue uranium enrichment, but has not said which country will provide the fuel for its reactors. Yunis acknowledges the deposits of ore in the Sinai, but says that these will not necessarily be exploited to fuel Egypt’s reactors. However, Petroleum Minister Sameh Fahmi is looking into the feasibility of this venture.

Yunis also expresses Egypt's desire to set up a budget to encourage Egyptian nuclear scientists to return to work on the project. In addition, Yunis affirms that the Nuclear Safety Administration will not become a separate entity.
— Muhammad al-Sa`dani, "Egypt: Electricity Minister Views Plans for Nuclear Power Stations," Al-Ahram, in OSC

9 October 2006
In an interview, former U.S. Under Secretary for Non-Proliferation Henry Seculsky says that there has been information stating that Egypt wants to develop nuclear weapons. He does not provide the sources for this information.

9 October 2006
German Parliament Member Fritz Kuhn comes to Egypt with a delegation from the German Green Party to discuss Egypt’s research into alternative energy sources. Kuhn states that Egypt possesses the means to utilize both wind and solar power, and that nuclear energy is too costly and harmful to the environment.

11 October 2006
Ukrainian Ambassador to Egypt Yevhen Mykytenko states that all countries, including Egypt, possess the right to pursue peaceful nuclear programs.

11 October 2006
The Egyptian cabinet announces that Egypt is within its rights to pursue peaceful nuclear energy and that Egypt already possesses the expertise and material to reach this goal. Majdi Radi, the Cabinet spokesman, states that Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif affirms that the Supreme Energy Council will soon meet to consider the issue.

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11 October 2006
In an interview, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs David Welch states that considering Egypt's past history of following its safeguards agreements the U.S. is not apprehensive about their peaceful nuclear program. He acknowledges that Egypt has a genuine need for alternative energy sources. Also, Welch says that the U.S. could offer aid, but has not looked into the specifics of cooperation.
— "Media Roundtable with David Welch, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, and Arab Journalists (as Released by the State Department) Subject: The Middle East and Mr. Welch's Recent Trip to the Region with Secretary of State Rice," Federal News Service, 11 October 2006.

13 October 2006
According to Egyptian Electricity and Energy Minister Hassan Yunis, Egypt is planning on conducting talks with France, Australia, South Korea, Germany, China, the United States and Canada on cooperation with their peaceful nuclear program. Also, Foreign Trade and Industry Minister Rashid Mohamed Rashid states that there is "obviously [a] need... [for]... Russian experience of peaceful atomic energy uses." ITAR-TASS reports that Egypt is looking at ten countries as possible partners in its nuclear program.

16 October 2006
A committee of experts is to present its report on the financial, security, and technical needs for a peaceful energy program. The report will first go to the ministerial group set up to explore this issue and then be sent to the Supreme Energy Council. Electricity and Energy Minister Hassan Yunis states that there is no intention to form a new entity to implement the program.

17 October 2006
At the 115th session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva, Egypt expresses its desire for the IPU to establish Nuclear Weapon Free Zones. Egyptian Minister of Legal Affairs Mufid Shihab states that countries that possess nuclear weapons need to take definitive action to disarm according to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He also reiterates Egypt's condemnation of the nuclear test in North Korea. Shihab feels that nuclear nonproliferation should treat everyone equally and that this is "inevitable."

19 October 2006
The Human Resources Development Committee of the Consultation Council (Egypt's upper house of parliament) expresses its approval for launching a peaceful nuclear program. The committee would like 40% of the reactors to be Egyptian and highlights a need for training Egyptians to operate them so that Egypt can be independent of other nuclear powers.
19 October 2006
Deputy Leader of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood Egypt's foremost opposition party Muhammad Habib states that, "Any country should have the right to obtain nuclear technology or even nuclear arms for deterrence, especially if it is being threatened by another nuclear country."
— "Coalitions of the Unwilling," The Economist, 19 October 2006.

20 October 2006
Egypt presents two draft resolutions on nuclear arms to the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. The first resolution (A/C.1/61/L.1) concerns the creation of a Middle Eastern Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and establishing International Atomic Energy Safeguards for all nuclear facilities in the region. The second (A/C.1/61/L.2) addresses nuclear proliferation issues in the Middle East region, especially the danger of non-safeguarded facilities.

20 October 2006
A draft bill on the Egyptian peaceful nuclear program is requested by Electricity and Energy Minister Hassan Yunis. He anticipates that it will be written and submitted to the parliament in the near term. Yunis highlights a need to improve quality control at and recruit capable scientists for the National Center for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control, which he would like to remain independent so that it can effectively supervise the nuclear installations.

20 October 2006
The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has a discussion about the Arab League's announcement that it would like to pursue civilian nuclear technology and develop cooperation between Arab countries. Hani Khalaf, the Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab Affairs and the chief delegate to the Arab League, presides over the discussion, which is attended by Atomic Energy Agency Chief Ali Islam, among others.

2005
4 January 2005
Israeli military sources assert that Abdul Qadeer Khan's illicit market in nuclear proliferation provided one of three countries - Syria, Saudi Arabia, or Egypt - with the expertise and material to manufacture nuclear bombs. The

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sources would not specify precisely which state they are talking about.

4 January 2005
According to information revealed to the Associated Press by unnamed diplomats, the IAEA "has found evidence of secret nuclear experiments in Egypt that could be used in weapons programs." The alleged evidence indicates that the majority of the experiments were carried out in the 1980s and 1990s; some of the work was purportedly undertaken as recently as a year ago. Egyptian government spokesman Magdy Rady again denies these claims, stating that "Nothing about our nuclear program is secret and there is nothing that is not known to the IAEA."

One of the diplomats, however, insists on condition of anonymity that Egypt did attempt to produce uranium components unbeknownst to the IAEA, including uranium metal and uranium tetrafluoride, a precursor to uranium hexafluoride gas. The diplomat added that the work appears to have been sporadic however, without special focus.

5 January 2005
According to the Washington Post, diplomatic sources familiar with IAEA findings suggest that there is no evidence of an Egyptian nuclear weapons program, although several Egyptian scientists have been involved in experiments domestically and abroad over the past 30 years. Egypt has been cooperative and IAEA inspectors are purportedly satisfied that any experiments that did occur were not conducted under the aegis of the government. IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky would not comment on these allegations. U.S. State Department and White House spokesmen said they had no information regarding the IAEA findings.

5 January 2005
Unnamed diplomats in Vienna claim that the IAEA discovery of trace material deriving from small scale nuclear experiments in Egypt "did not involve uranium enrichment," adding that that the apparent lack of real focus suggests that the discovery is relatively less alarming than recent revelations about nuclear experimentation in South Korea.

6 January 2005
An editorial in the state-owned Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram declares that the uproar surrounding the possibility of a secret nuclear weapons program in Egypt is nothing more than a "smoke screen to cover the real issue that underlies the threat of proliferation of nuclear weapons in the entire region. We mean the Israeli nuclear program, for according to all documented studies Israel has in its possession at present no fewer than 200 nuclear warheads."
— "Egypt: Editorial Disclaims Bid to Produce Nuclear Weapons" Al-Ahram (Cairo), 6 January 2005; FBIS-translated text.

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6 January 2005
Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt declares Egypt's continued commitment to NPT obligations. Cabinet spokesman Majdi Radi denies all such allegations, saying that nothing about the nuclear program is secret and the Egyptian program is for medical and research purposes alone.

11 January 2005
A senior U.S. administration official has stated that Washington has no reason to believe that Egypt is engaged in an illicit nuclear weapons development program and is allowing the IAEA to practice its normal procedures.

13 January 2005
Decrying what it describes as "a tendentious campaign against Egypt," Cairo's opposition Al-Wafd newspaper states that the source of "malicious" allegations regarding Egypt's purported development of a secret nuclear program emanate from Israel. The newspaper cites several Egyptian experts, academics and former government personnel, who emphasize the peaceful nature of nuclear research in the country; the spuriousness of charges suggesting nefarious Egyptian government-sponsored nuclear programs or goals; the greater regional threat posed by unacknowledged and unmonitored Israeli nuclear capabilities; and alleged U.S. hopes to discredit the IAEA's Egyptian director, Mohamed El-Baradei, to deny him a third term as head of the nuclear agency.

20 January 2005
Unidentified diplomats close to the IAEA reveal that inspectors are investigating a reprocessing laboratory, the existence of which is news to the nuclear agency. It was built in the 1980s to make plutonium but apparently never used; it is located at Egypt's Inshass center, 20 miles northeast of Cairo and home of two research reactors.

24 January 2005
An unidentified Egyptian "official" source laid out the following six points to Cairo's Middle East News Agency: Egypt is fully committed to its NPT obligations; its nuclear activities are peaceful, permitted and subject to IAEA verification; the experiments and activities currently being questioned occurred many years ago and only as permitted; Egypt is demonstrating the highest good faith and transparency in its dealings with the IAEA, including explaining a disruption in activity reports about some research and experimentation; efforts are already underway to ensure full Egyptian implementation of the ACG (Agreement of Comprehensive Guarantees) system to guarantee Egypt's full commitment; Egypt stresses its "unwavering belief in the universality of the NPT and the

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necessity to subject all Middle East nuclear installations to surveillance of the IAEA’s ACG system."

24 January 2005
Egypt’s Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu al-Ghayt underscores Egypt’s full cooperation with the IAEA in accordance with the NPT.
— "Cooperation Between Egypt, IAEA 'Serious and in Full Swing' - Foreign Minister," MENA (Cairo), 24 January 2005.

27 January 2005
Dr. Ali Islam, head of the Egyptian Atomic Energy Agency, declares that the Egypt-IAEA dialogue is "going well." Islam stresses Egypt’s complete commitment to NPT obligations and affirms its peaceful nuclear goals.

30 January 2005
The Washington Post reports that the Bush administration’s true motivation for preventing Mohamed ElBaradei from winning another term was his accurate assessment that Iraq had no nuclear weapons. In an interview with the Washington Post, ElBaradei responds to allegations that Egypt is engaging in experiments with nuclear materials. He says, "...there was a failure in reporting certain experiments, but they do not have a weapons program...It comes back to a sense of frustration - a sense of instability. As part of the peace process, we must engage in a parallel security dialogue. You will not get peace simply by saying here is a Palestinian state. You need a security structure undergirding the peace process, dealing with weapons of mass destruction." When asked about the American administration’s attempt to get him kicked out, he responds by saying, "I don’t know who wants me out. They say they want a rotation policy. I have spent almost 30 years of my life doing this, and before I cross to the other side, I want to get the Iran issue out of the way and get to the bottom of the A.Q. Khan network - he provided the complete kit to Libya."

February 2005
Reports indicate the IAEA is investigating evidence of past undeclared activities in Egypt. Based on reports from 2004, Arms Control Today says evidence indicates Egypt engaged in activities involving plutonium and production of material useful for a uranium enrichment program.

1 February 2005
In a Note Verbal to Director General of the IAEA Mohammed ElBaradei, the Egyptian government compliments the IAEA and requests the Secretariat to circulate an attached press release on the implementation of the NPT Safeguard Agreement of Egypt. The translated press statement is as follows:

1. Egypt is fully committed to its undertakings and obligations in accordance with the Treaty on the Non - Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement concluded with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

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2. Egypt’s nuclear activities are strictly for peaceful purposes in accordance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and are subject to the IAEA inspections in accordance with the Safeguards Agreement. Related research experiments and their results have been regularly published in Egyptian and international scientific journals.

3. Differing interpretations of some aspects of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, especially with regard to the developments that have occurred in the Safeguards System since the mid 1990’s, have resulted in not reporting to the Agency in an appropriate and timely manner, a number of research experiments and activities. Such activities, most of which took place in the distant past, are consistent with the NPT.

4. Egypt is cooperating with the IAEA, in a full, transparent and forthcoming manner, to rectify this situation. In this regard, Egypt understands that the Agency is aware of the limited scope of the issue. Likewise, we note that throughout our discussion the Agency values the level of cooperation Egypt is extending and its desire to bring the issue, in all its aspects to a speedy conclusion.

5. Egypt is availing itself of the expertise of the Agency in enhancing the capabilities of national agencies responsible for the implementation of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, especially with regard to the development that occurred during the past years in the Safeguard System. This process will continue in the future in a way that ensures Egypt’s continued implementation of its commitments in accordance with its Safeguards Agreement.

6. Egypt reaffirms its position of principle, which calls for the universality of the NPT and for all nuclear installations in the Middle East be placed under the IAEA Safeguards System.

— "Note Verbal, From the Embassy of the Arab of Egypt to the International Atomic Agency," IAEA, 1 February 2005.

3 February 2005
In a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Rep. Jerold Nadler (D-NY) expresses serious concern that Egypt may be conducting clandestine nuclear weapons programs. He notes the recent samples of plutonium found in Egypt, the 2001 peaceful nuclear cooperation agreement with China, and a report by the Center for Non-Proliferation Studies that Egypt’s “active nuclear research program and recent activities and acquisitions aimed at developing an independent nuclear fuel cycle could provide cover and opportunity for developing a clandestine weapons program.” are clear signs they may be pursuing nuclear weapons programs.


4 February 2005
The International Atomic Energy Agency is preparing a report on its investigation into Egypt’s failure to inform the IAEA about nuclear research experiments. The report is scheduled for submission to the IAEA on February 28 and will be a special topic of consideration at the board meeting. In a statement to Agence France Presse, Egyptian ambassador Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy claims the strengthened safeguards led to some countries not knowing what they were required to report. Additionally, Mr. Ramzy said the reported safeguards failures were exaggerated. The

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IAEA is focusing on uranium metal production experiments at the Inshas center reprocessing laboratory, which could be used to make weapons-grade plutonium.

8 February 2005
Pakistan denies allegations that Abdul Qadeer Khan sold nuclear secrets to Egypt. Information minister, Sheik Rashid Ahmed, claims the Time magazine report that A.Q. Khan’s network extended beyond what was initially thought is "baseless and sensationalized." He further denies that 16 cylinders of uranium hexafluoride gas are missing from the Khan Research Laboratories.

9 February 2005
A German official says Egypt's use of nuclear material is exclusively for medical research. German minister of science and arts from Baden-Württemberg, Peter Frankenber, claims the experiments focus on cancer research and locating subterranean waters in the desert.

10 February 2005
The Associated Press reports that the United States continues its pursuit to remove Mohamed ElBaradei as director general of the IAEA.

13 February 2005
The Sunday Telegraph reports a senior Bush official revealed the United States is lobbying support for a no-confidence vote to remove Mohammed ElBaradei as the head of the IAEA.

14 February 2005
Egyptian officials claim minute traces of plutonium found by the IAEA came from fuel contamination in one of the small research reactors located at the Inshas center. Cairo attributes the lack of reporting nuclear activities, most of which took place before 1982, to "sloppiness".

14 February 2005
An IAEA senior diplomat says even though Egypt repeatedly failed to report nuclear materials and activities, the research appears to be related to the nuclear fuel cycle, not a nuclear weapons program. The diplomat also indicates that Egypt is cooperating with the investigation into these incidents, some of which occurred as many as 40 years ago.

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14 February 2005
The Associated Press reports that an IAEA summary released to diplomats dispelled some concerns that Egypt had explored developing nuclear weapons. The report also faulted Egypt for failing to report imports of small amounts of uranium compounds and "other" substances.

14 February 2005
A UN atomic agency report says Egypt "erred" when it did not report some of its nuclear experiments. The report also claims the research did not involve uranium enrichment or plutonium separation to make nuclear weapons. The IAEA report further says that although the repeated failures to report nuclear experiments and facilities are "a matter of concern" they do not constitute a "smoking gun" and Egypt appears to be telling the truth.

15 February 2005
A confidential report by the IAEA reprimands Egypt for failing to declare nuclear materials and sites. The report, circulated prior to the upcoming board of governors meeting on February 28, highlights the failure to report these items in a timely manner, but also says "the nuclear material and facilities seen by the agency to date are consistent with the activities described by Egypt." The New York Times indicates Egypt said it never completed the hydrometallurgy pilot plant which was designed to separate small amounts of plutonium.

2 March 2005
Head of the U.S. delegation to the IAEA, Jackie Sanders, praises Egypt for its cooperation and transparency with the IAEA. Egypt's example clearly demonstrates the "appropriate means for resolving outstanding safeguards issues, specifically, full cooperation with the IAEA on steps to address all concerns," Sanders added.

2 March 2005
According to the Bulgarian News Association (BTA), the Bulgarian Council of Ministers approves a decision to endorse an agreement to cooperate with the Egyptian government to counter terrorism, prohibit crime, and prevent the proliferation of radioactive substances and dual-use nuclear technology and goods.

2 March 2005
Individual board members of the IAEA issue statements indicating Egypt's violations were minor. The United States praises Egypt's cooperation and along with the Nonaligned Movement agrees in a statement "that the issue in question is not a matter of proliferation concern."

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3 March 2005
Egypt’s representative to the IAEA, Ambassador Ramzi Ezzedin Ramzi, says the IAEA is "fully convinced that all Egyptian activities are only for peaceful purposes...and the delay in reporting its activities was not deliberate but due to a difference over explaining clauses of the guarantee protocol." Furthermore, Egypt was "hailed" for its response to and cooperation with the IAEA investigation, the official added.

4 March 2005
Progress continues in Mohammed ElBaradei’s third term candidacy as head of the IAEA as the U.S. administration has yet to offer a suitable alternative for the position.

27 April 2005
Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Egypt includes talks on an agreement for cooperation in peaceful nuclear energy. In an interview with Nezavisimaya Gazeta, Egyptian Foreign Minister Abu-al-Ghayt says he has hopes the deal will be authorized soon. Putin is also set to discuss the possible sale of "over 1,000 portable missile launchers" to Egypt, in competition with China.

28 April 2005
The Russian daily Izvestiya reports that in talks between Russia and Egypt, nuclear power station construction is not under consideration. It adds that the use of nuclear power in a water desalination facility and for medical purposes is possible, but "for the time being the signing of contracts remains a prospect for the future."

30 April 2005
Prior to the 2005 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty review conference in May, Egypt participates in The New Agenda Coalition. This group implements policies to expedite nuclear nonproliferation.

May 2005
The United States opposes a third term for Egyptian-born Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohammed ElBaradei. The bases for the opposition are the application of the Geneva Rule, as well as El Baradei’s disagreement with the war in Iraq and his perceived leniency regarding Iran’s nuclear program.

12 May 2005
Head of the Russian Federal Atomic Energy Agency Aleksander Rumyantsev tells a journalist that he expects an agreement on cooperation between Russia and Egypt on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. He discusses

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"reconstruction of the nuclear center" as well as "construction of accelerators for medical purposes, and for agriculture."

15 May 2005
Prime Minister of Egypt Ahmed Nazif reiterates Egypt's support of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He declares that Egypt will not "pursue nuclear capability in terms of military use," even if Iran becomes a nuclear power.

28 May 2005
The 2005 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty review conference is unable to make progress on improving the treaty. The failure is caused in part by Egypt's refusal to proceed without talks specifically regarding Israel's nuclear program.

9 June 2005
The United States abandons its opposition to a third term for Mohammed ElBaradei as Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

13 June 2005
IAEA spokeswoman Melissa Fleming says "the board has reached a consensus and appointed Doctor ElBaradei to a third term." The vote was unanimous within the 35-member Board of Governors.

20 July 2005
An Egyptian delegation led by Ambassador Abdul Raouf El-Reedi is to attend the International Conference on Disarmament and Nuclear Proliferation in Japan.

9 August 2005
Dr. Ali Islam, head of the Egyptian Atomic Energy Agency, states that relations between the IAEA and Egypt are managed with "trust and transparency," and that Egypt is committed to IAEA and NPT regulations.

26 August 2005
Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit states in a letter to the Executive Secretary of the CTBT Organization, Tibor Toth, that Egypt ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is directly related to "regional and international developments." In particular he points to Israel's status as a non-signatory to the NPT as a reason for

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Egypt's rejection of the CTBT.

15 September 2005
The UN General Assembly's declaration to be issued at the end of the UN World Summit, according to Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit, addresses several Egyptian requests yet disregards the important matters of "nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament."

17 September 2005
In response to a journalist's question regarding international reactions to Egypt's refusal to join the NPT, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit says, "the issue is not one of pressure, but it is one of countries' interests...Every country has its motives, and Egypt will always work to protect its interests."

18 September 2005
According to Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit, Egypt's initiatives regarding a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East are widely accepted at the UN General Assembly.

21 September 2005
At the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly, the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ahmed Abul Gheit, announces that "Egypt has signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism."
In his statement he also asserts that "the issues of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is another major challenge requiring concerted international action," particularly because the plenary meeting did not achieve agreement on a "methodology of addressing those issues in a manner consistent with its utmost importance and urgency for the safety and security of the human race."

Ahmed Gheit states that the international community must, "[restore] the balance between nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy." In order to achieve this, Gheit suggests that, "universality of the NPT [is] imperative, otherwise we risk that the Non-Proliferation Treaty loses its credibility and relevance." Included in the argument for universality of the NPT is the need to "reinforce the mutual and balanced implementation of commitments and obligations set forth in existing treaties, and achieving their universality prior to any attempts at imposing further obligations on states that adhere to these treaties." The Egyptian statement also expresses a desire to create a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East.
— H.E. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, "Statement by H.E. Ahmed Aboul Gheit Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Arab

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28 September 2005
Egypt proposes a resolution on a Middle East Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone to the 49th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Israel, the only state in the region that is believed to possess nuclear weapons, agrees to support the resolution in exchange for dropping discussion of its nuclear program from the agenda. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice states that the United States is not opposed to a NWFZ in the Middle East, but feels that first there must be greater peace and security in the region. For the United States, this is more an issue of politics than security. Russian Federation Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov affirms that the Russian Federation supports a Middle Eastern NWFZ, but agrees with the United States that there must be greater security in the region.


30 September 2005
The General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency adopts without a vote Resolution GC(49)/18 on the implementation of a NWFZ in the Middle East. However, the Arab states fail to gain a denunciation of Israel for their nuclear activities. In previous conferences, the IAEA has adopted similar resolutions, but Director General Mohamed ElBaradei states that he has failed to make any progress on their implementation.


7 October 2005
The Guardian Weekly releases information on a 2003 British MI5 report entitled, "Companies and Organizations of Proliferation Concern" that cites Egypt, among other states, as having attempted to acquire dual-use components for its nuclear program.


7 October 2005
Mohamed ElBaradei, the Egyptian Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, wins the Nobel Peace Prize for the use of diplomatic means in the IAEA cases of Iran and North Korea. The Nobel Committee states, "the Norwegian Nobel Committee wishes to underline that this threat must be met through the broadest possible international cooperation. This principle finds its clearest expression today in the work of the IAEA and its director general."


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13 October 2005
In an interview with an Egyptian journalist, Egypt's Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit discusses his views on nonproliferation and regional security. He reiterates "Egypt's pivotal role in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation system," and says that, "non-proliferation issues should continue to be tackled through a multilateral international framework and not through a unilateral course." Regarding regional security, Gheit states that Egypt is unchangeable in its position on "the importance of freeing the region of all WMD, foremost among which are nuclear weapons," and that they will continue to insist that Israel comply with the NPT. He also utilizes the Iranian nuclear program as evidence that a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East in necessary for regional security.

18 October 2005
While traveling to Russia for meetings, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit states that he will speak with Russian officials regarding a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East.

19 October 2005
During a press conference, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit repeats Egypt's position that the Middle East should have a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. Concerning the NPT, he states that, "it is necessary to comply with the NPT. But it is necessary to give the countries an opportunity of using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes."

19 October 2005
Egypt's Foreign Minister, Ahmed Abul Gheit, responds to a question regarding the possibility of Egyptian and Russian cooperation on a nuclear power plant on Egyptian soil by saying that the subject has not yet been brought to the table.

26 October 2005
An Egyptian sponsored U.N. draft resolution on the creation of a Middle Eastern Nuclear Weapons Free Zone is brought before the U.N. First Committee (Disarmament and International Security). The resolution calls for the formation of a NWFZ and would urge all countries "not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices," and to put all nuclear programs under international safeguards.
9 November 2005
Advocating a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East, Nabil Fahmy, Egyptian Ambassador to the United States, states at a Carnegie International Nonproliferation Conference that the creation of a NWFZ must not be delayed until after a resolution to the Arab/Israeli issue is found.

15 November 2005
The construction of the synchrotron accelerator for the Synchrotron-light Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME) project, of which Egypt is one of the participants, is almost complete. The synchrotron accelerator will be housed in a facility at the University of Balaka, which is about 30km from Amman, Jordan. The facility is expected to be operational in 2009. [Note: See entry for 3 January 2003.]

30 December 2005
An Egyptian official refutes allegations by Israeli Knesset member Yuval Steinitz that Egypt helped Iran with its nuclear program and provided Palestinian factions with weapons.

2004
31 March 2004
WorldTribune.com suggests that evidence uncovered by a British-U.S. team of nuclear inspectors in Libya confirms an exchange of nuclear and missile technology between Libya and Egypt in late 2003. U.S. officials opine that the alleged cooperation is unlikely to be raised during the April 12th meeting between Presidents Bush and Mubarak.

2 November 2004
According to the French Liberation newspaper, a rumor has begun to circulate at the IAEA that Mohamed ElBaradei may have exerted his influence to cover up information regarding a clandestine Egyptian nuclear program. It is alleged that this information surfaced as part of the IAEA's review of secret Libyan nuclear documents. Liberation points its finger at the United States for being behind the rumor, stressing the tensions between it and the IAEA chief. ElBaradei is currently seeking a third term as secretary general of the agency; the United States opposes his re-election.

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2 November 2004
Egypt’s ambassador to the IAEA, Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy, dismisses the French newspaper allegation that Mohamed ElBaradei helped to hide a clandestine Egyptian nuclear program as "baseless." He emphasizes Egypt’s consistently "clean bill of health" with regard to the IAEA.

5 November 2004
The IAEA is currently looking into the likely provenance of plutonium particles discovered near an Egyptian nuclear facility. The agency cautioned against jumping to conclusions about whether or not Egypt may have violated the Non-proliferation Treaty.

2003-2000
3 January 2003
According to Middle East Newsline, Egypt will be one of the first six countries to participate in the training and other activities at the future Jordanian nuclear research and training center. The United Nations sponsors the facility, and Germany supplies the equipment. The facility will house a synchrotron complex, called the Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications for the Middle East.

14 November 2003
Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy speaks out against perceived U.S. hypocrisy regarding nuclear imperatives for Iran versus Israel; the latter is neither a signatory to the NPT (Nuclear Proliferation Treaty) nor subject therefore to IAEA inspections. Fahmy declares "there is no way that [Egypt] can reconcile this...it [Israel] has rebuffed all of Egypt’s attempts to convince it to become party to a region free of nuclear weapons."
— Jonathan Curiel, "Egyptian Calls for Nuclear Inspections in Israel; Same Standard Should Be Used All Over Mideast, Ambassador Says," San Francisco Chronicle, 14 November 2003, p.A12

24 December 2003
Presidents Mubarak and Assad appeal to Israel to "forsake nuclear weapons" in the context of a WMD-free Middle East.

23 January 2002
President Hosni Mubarak and Chinese President Jiang Zemin sign the Cooperation Agreement on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy during talks in Beijing. According to German intelligence services, the agreement stipulates to
Chinese assistance with mining of uranium deposits on the Sinai Peninsula and investigating the possibilities of production of uranium hexafluoride (UF6). The information remains unconfirmed and is not corroborated by either German or U.S. official sources. According to Egyptian officials, under the agreement, "Egyptian-origin natural uranium could be enriched to 20% or less by China using gas centrifuge plants China has set up with assistance from the Russian Federation."


21 May 2002
Writing in the Egyptian government daily Al-Ahram, the head of the Egyptian Parliamentary Foreign Liaison Committee Dr. Mustafa Al-Fiqi argues that the Arab world should obtain nuclear weapons in order to counter Israel's. He declares: "The question now is would it not be better for us to proceed with possession of Arab nuclear arms...? Nuclear usage for peaceful purposes can lead to other usage if the funds and know how are available. We have both."


June 2002
Egyptian Minister of Energy and Electricity Hassan Ahmad Yunis announces that Egypt plans to build a nuclear power plant near Alexandria.


27 June 2002
Responding to the allegations in the German newspaper Die Welt that it was assisting Egypt in developing nuclear weapons, Chinese embassy in Egypt issues a statement calling the newspaper report "a complete fabrication."


29 June 2002
Egypt's Air Defense Chief Lt. General Samy Annan states at a Cairo press conference that there is a pressing need for Egypt to possess a deterrent force.


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27 April 2001
During a three-day visit to Russia, Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy Ali al-Sa'idi and Russian Minister of Atomic Energy Aleksandr Rumyantsev sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. In addition to the MOU, the countries sign contracts to supply Egypt with "nuclear equipment" to modernize and upgrade the Inshas reactor and also discuss the possibility of greater cooperation in the nuclear sphere. Al-Sa'idi states that at present, Egypt has no plans to build a nuclear reactor to produce electricity. He notes however that "if in the future [Egypt] will need to use nuclear energy to generate electricity, [it] will have the expertise to do this."

Late 2001
According to a report by the World Energy Council, Egypt is planning the construction of a 600MW nuclear power plant at El-Dabaa, with anticipated completion in about 2010.

March 2000
The pan-Arab-leaning Al-Wifaq Al-Qawmi opposition party is founded. Its platform declares: "Egypt should obtain nuclear weapons in order to maintain peace in the region."

1990s
21 October 1999
Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, head of the Arab Industrialization Authority, states in a speech to the Egyptian Foreign Affairs Council that "If Egypt does not manage to force or persuade Israel to relinquish its nuclear weapons, there is no way but to find an alternative solution, and that is to obtain this weapon."

February 1998
Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Argentine President Carlos Menem inaugurate Egypt's second nuclear reactor at Inshas ETRR-2.

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February 1998-September 1998
Under contract from the Nuclear Power Authority, the Electric Power Systems Engineering Company conducts "rehabilitation and renovation" work on the Inshas reactor ETRR-1.

4 October 1998
President Mubarak asserts in an interview that Egypt "will not hesitate" to develop or acquire nuclear weapons, should it become necessary. He adds, "The substances used in nuclear weapons are now easy to obtain and can be purchased easily."

November 1998
As part of the assessment for its first nuclear power plant Egypt plans to conduct a feasibility study for the nuclear power plant and seawater desalination facility with technical assistance from IAEA. El-Dabaa, near Alexandria, is chosen for the study.

March-May 1997
Under contract from the Nuclear Power Plants Authority, the Electric Power Systems Engineering Company carries out a study entitled "Design of Closed Cycle for Hydraulic Laboratory - El-Dabaa."

May 1997-June 1997
Under contract from the Nuclear Power Authority, the Electric Power Systems Engineering Company carries out a project entitled "Engineering of the Spent Fuel Storage Tank Project, Inshass Reactor."

27 November 1997
Egypt's second research reactor at Inshas ETRR-2 goes critical. The 22MW reactor is an open pool-type multipurpose reactor cooled and moderated by light water. It uses low-enriched uranium for fuel. The reactor is built entirely by the Rio Negro company, while INVAP handles the design, manufacture, installation, and start-up. The reactor costs $154 million. According to the Atomic Energy Authority of Egypt, the ETRR-2 will be used for radioisotope production, including cobalt-60 source production, nuclear fuel research and development, and personnel training in nuclear engineering and reactor operation.

1996
A new uranium deposit area is discovered at Gebel Kadabora.

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1 March 1996
The Nuclear Materials Authority of Egypt contracts Argentina’s INVAP to design and build a fuel element pilot plant to extract uranium from phosphoric acid. The plant’s capacity is reportedly either 24 or 40 fuel elements per year. The main process performed in the plant includes the manufacturing of U3O8 powder, structural components, fuel plates, fuel assembly, and quality control tasks. The starting material is uranium hexafluoride gas (UF6), 19.75 percent enriched.

25 November 1996
The Minister of Electricity and Energy Mahir Abazah announces that the first stage of the project to extract uranium from phosphoric acid will begin in December 1996.

9-13 December 1996
The Third Arab Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy takes place in Damascus, Syria.

23 December 1996
Electricity Minister Mohammed Maher Abaza tells parliament that Egypt plans to begin construction of its first nuclear power plant at the turn of the century at El-Dabaa, 388km northwest of Cairo between Alexandria and Marsa Matrouh. [Note: El-Dabaa was selected in the 1980s after an evaluation by France’s Framatome.]

31 January 1995
In a letter to an Egyptian newspaper, former Minister of Defense and intelligence chief Amin Howeidi writes that the Israeli nuclear threat can be adequately countered with conventional weapons, plus chemical, biological and incendiary weapons, "until Egypt develops its own nuclear deterrent."

17 April-12 May 1995
At the NPT Review and Extension Conference Egypt leads the Arab states in strong opposition to efforts to extend the NPT indefinitely because of Israel’s refusal to accede to the NPT.

24 July 1995
In an interview with an Egyptian weekly Al Arabi, Dr. Salah Hedayat, the Minister of Scientific Research under
President Nasser, states that Egypt began a secret nuclear weapons program some years before Israel embarked on its program, but abandoned it in the 1970s after the death of President Nasser. Dr. Hedayat recalls that after the Soviet Union refused to upgrade the research reactor at Inshas "on grounds of technical safety factors," he went to Germany, "where a firm prepared for us the design of a reactor with the required safety specifications."


1 October 1995
Egyptian police detain four men trying to sell 5kg of a "mysterious" liquid in a flask marked "DANGER-NUCLEAR" for $1 million. Sources speculate that the liquid could have been uranium or "red mercury."


5-9 November 1994
The Second Arab Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy takes place in Cairo, Egypt.


2-6 February 1992
The First Arab Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy takes place in Tripoli, Libya.


16 September 1992
Ali Fahmy El-Saiadi, head of Egypt’s Nuclear Power Plants Authority announces at an IAEA seminar that Egypt intends to build a 600MW "plant of advanced design" at the El-Dabaa site West of Alexandria. The Egyptian government includes the project in its official five-year plan beginning in 1992-93.


19 September 1992
Egypt and Argentina sign an agreement to build a 22MW research reactor. The Electricity and Energy Minister Mahir Abazah states that the purpose of the reactor is "only to produce isotopes necessary to develop the scientific and technological infrastructure and to exploit the desert." The reactor would cost about $44 million and be operational within five years.


1 December 1992
Construction begins on the 22MW research reactor contracted to Argentina.


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1991
Egypt signs an agreement with Russia for the delivery of a Russian MGC-20 cyclotron accelerator.

1991
Egypt signs an agreement with India to increase the capacity of ETRR-1 to 5MW.

1990
Egypt reportedly cooperates with Pakistan, Iraq, and Argentina to construct a plutonium-producing reactor for nuclear weapons.

1990
An Egyptian specialist is sent to France and Yugoslavia to train in the technology and application of neutron radiography. Subsequently various equipment is installed at Inshas, including in-cell equipment for producing Iodine-131 and a line for Technetium-99m production.

January 1990
The Inshas research reactor, which was shut down for upgrades during the 1980s, resumes operations. According to Dr. Hamid Rushdi, head of the Atomic Energy Authority, the reactor's renovations were safety-related. Dr. Rushdi notes that the reactor "will serve not only research purposes, but also have industrial applications and produce important isotopes...particularly iodine-131." Dr. Rushdi adds states that Egypt "can...construct, operate, and carry out maintenance on projects involving the production of nuclear energy."

29 October 1990
Egypt submits a draft resolution entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" (A/C.1/45/L.1) to the First Committee of the UN General Assembly. On 13 November 1990 the Committee adopts the resolution and recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the resolution.

November 1990
According to the London-based newspaper Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, the Egyptian government completes a study to determine the most important source of uranium in Egypt as part of its plan to produce nuclear fuel from indigenous raw materials. The study reveals that the most important sources of uranium are "pink granite," found in the granite belt between Qina and Safaja in the Eastern Desert, and in pink granite rocks northwest of the city of al-Ghurdaqah on the Red Sea coast, as well as sedimentary and phosphate rock, and black sand. The Egyptian

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Nuclear Materials Authority will "oversee the installation and operation of a uranium production line in the Abu Za'bal [Company for Fertilizers and Chemicals]," which is the only plant in Egypt manufacturing phosphoric acid as an intermediary, from which uranium could be extracted. The current production capacity of the Abu Zabal plant is 70,000 tons of raw phosphate a year, which translates into about 15 tons of uranium after it is extracted from phosphate fertilizers. The Abu Zabal plant plans to double its production by 1992. Other companies also involved in mining phosphate are the Red Sea Phosphate Company, al-Nasr Phosphate Company, the Egyptian Financial and Industrial Company, and Egypt Phosphate Company.


1980s

1 February 1989
The Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy Mahir Abazah and the Moroccan Minister of Energy and Mining sign a technical cooperation protocol for conventional and nuclear energy and the mining industries. Egypt will provide Morocco with hands-on training for technical aspects of nuclear projects, and Morocco will offer technical expertise in uranium manufacturing.


2 August 1989
The Egyptian Nuclear Materials Authority (ENMA) begins exploration of uranium ore in several recently discovered areas of the Eastern Desert: "Jabal Qatar, (al-Mustat), al-Aridah, and Um Qar." The Ministry of Electricity also concludes contracts with Australia, Canada, and Niger for advanced mining and uranium ore development technology transfer "with the intention of providing the nuclear fuels needed for the Egyptian nuclear power-generating program, should the government agree to it."


November 1989
According to the Egyptian daily Al-Ahram, Egypt begins to manufacture nuclear fuel from indigenous raw materials in a nuclear fuel plant, which was constructed with help from West Germany. Egypt's aim is to achieve self-sufficiency in manufacturing fuel for nuclear reactors.


Late 1980s
Egyptian Army Colonel Khairat is reported to have found a source in France willing to sell 100kg of uranium, which he hoped to ship to Pakistan for enrichment. It is unknown whether Khairat was actually able to buy the uranium

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or to have it shipped to Pakistan for enrichment.

1987
The pilot nuclear fuel factory at Inshas Nuclear Research Center is complete. The Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority in cooperation with West Germany plans and builds the uranium dioxide fuel plant. The plant will use natural uranium extracted from mine deposits discovered in the Red Sea and the Eastern Desert.

1987
After several foreign bidders back out of negotiations to construct nuclear power plants due to lack of credit guarantees, Egypt withdraws the invitation bid to build the reactors.

1986
Egypt suspends its nuclear program indefinitely after the disaster of the Chernobyl reactor explosion. Simultaneously the United States offers Egypt aid to construct conventional power stations in exchange for Egypt shelving its nuclear program, which the latter accepts.

22 November 1986
In an interview with Al-Ahram, the Chairman of Egypt's Atomic Energy Commission Mohammed Izzat Abd al-Aziz states that Egypt has signed an agreement with the IAEA for the construction of a radioactive processing plant, which would "get rid of low-level and medium-level radioactive waste, reprocess nuclear fuel, and produce certain useful materials such as uranium." He adds that Egypt should try to obtain another nuclear research reactor with a capacity of at least 15MW.

1985
Egypt establishes a joint nuclear cooperation program with Pakistan and Iraq. The focus of the program is the construction of an experimental nuclear reactor at Al-Wadi Al-Jadid (southwest region of Egypt), and the establishment of a nuclear safety authority to be based in Cairo.

June 1985
The Australian cabinet committee approves a nuclear safeguards agreement, which would open the way for sale of

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uranium to Egypt within two years. The agreement stipulates that if Egypt "fires a nuclear device," all uranium bought from Australia is to be returned.


17 June 1985
Egypt and South Korea sign a protocol on technical cooperation and technology transfer in the field of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The protocol provides for "the establishment, operation, and maintenance of electrical and nuclear energy stations," as well as the development of research and training programs.


11 August 1985
According to Egyptian daily Al-Ahram, Egypt's first uranium mine will begin operations at a cost of 1.8 million pounds. The report states that three more shafts will be opened in the Eastern Desert to determine the extent of uranium deposits there; uranium deposits have already been discovered in Aswan and in the northern desert. Egypt wants to use the mined uranium in the nuclear fuel for planned reactors at El-Dabaa.


November 1984
Egypt and Switzerland sign a nuclear cooperation agreement, which creates a framework in which Swiss industry would supply equipment and services for peaceful applications of nuclear energy. Some of these industry contracts include a consulting contract with Motor-Columbus to advise Egypt on its nuclear program.


31 March 1983
Having drawn up plans for the construction of eight 1,000MW nuclear power stations by the year 2000, Egypt's Nuclear Power Plants Authority issues an international bid invitation for the turnkey supply of a nuclear plant consisting of two 1,000MW reactor units at El-Dabaa. [Note: None of the nuclear cooperation agreements that Egypt signs with France, Germany, and the United States move beyond paper stage, as the Western countries, led by the United States revoking its commitment to Egypt, force the latter to search for another supplier for the El-Dabaa project.]


5 August 1983
The Export-Import Bank announces its refusal to provide financing for the construction of the planned nuclear

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power plant at El-Dabaa and the transfer of U.S. nuclear technology to Egypt despite the preliminary commitment of up to $200 million. The bank argues that "the proposal did not offer reasonable assurance of repayment."


6 December 1983

Egypt's Electricity and Energy Minister Mahir Abazah and Niger's Minister of Mines and Industry Sani Koutoubi sign an agreement for cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. [Note: Niger is a major uranium producing country.]


1980-1982

Egypt's Atomic Power Agency establishes the Hot Laboratory and Waste Management Center (HLWMC) "to treat radioactive wastes at the national level, along with the by-products of nuclear fuel." The Center includes a small French-supplied hot cell complex for plutonium extraction research. The private French engineering company Robatel supplies the hot cells and installs them in 1982.


26 February 1981

Egypt ratifies the NPT.


19 March 1981

During his visit to Egypt, Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister John Douglas Anthony states that Australia will provide Egypt with technical expertise in prospecting uranium and adds that negotiations are taking place regarding supplying Egypt with uranium until its first nuclear power plant goes online, by 1989. [Note: On 27 June 1985, the Australian parliament approved the agreement to supply Egypt with uranium.]


27 March 1981

Egypt signs a final nuclear cooperation protocol with France, which provides for construction of two 1,000MW pressurized water reactors, valued at $1 billion each at El-Dabaa near Alexandria, followed by another plant to be built at Zafrana (139km west of Alexandria). [Note: At Egypt's request, France's Framatome evaluated various sites for possible nuclear power plant construction and chose El-Dabaa (388km northwest of Cairo) as the best site.] Egypt's aspirations for the nuclear power plant are to construct a complex identical to France's Gravelines, which

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includes six 900MW pressurized water reactor units. France also agrees to supply nuclear fuel for at least 30 years. According to the Egyptian Minister of Electricity Mahir Abaza the two reactors are part of eight nuclear plants Egypt intends to construct by the year 2000. The first reactor is expected to begin operating in 1985 and the second in 1986.


29 June 1981
Egypt signs a bilateral agreement with the United States for "full-scope" safeguards.

July 1981
The acceptance of full-scope safeguards on 29 June 1981 paves the way for the peaceful nuclear cooperation agreement between Egypt and the United States. The agreement stipulates a purchase of two nuclear reactors.

September 1981
Egypt and West Germany sign an agreement for Egypt to acquire two nuclear reactors.

6 October 1981
Lieutenant Colonel Khalid al Islambuli, a member of the extremist religious group Al Jihad, assassinates president Sadat. Hosni Mubarak becomes the new president of Egypt based on a national referendum.

Early 1980s
Egypt requests assistance from the IAEA to modernize the Inshas research reactor's aging systems and to improve its safety. [Note: The reactor is shut down until 1990.]
1970s

26 March 1979
Egypt and Israel sign a peace treaty, following the Camp David Peace Accords.

April 1979
The Egyptian government, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the U.S. Department of State issue a Cooperative Energy Assessment for Egypt that states that a nuclear power program of approximately 6,000MW phased over 20 years is a realistic target.

1978
The Board of Atomic Energy and the AEE cease to be autonomous and are brought under the auspices of the Ministry of Electricity.

17 September 1978
Peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt with mediation by the United States culminate in the Camp David Peace Accords, paving the way for normalization of diplomatic and trade relations between Israel and Egypt.

1977
The Egyptian Nuclear Materials Authority branches off from the geology department of the AEE.

1976
Egypt establishes the Nuclear Power Plants Authority (NPPA) to negotiate the purchase of two power reactors from the United States and the subsequent operation of the reactors.

1976
Egypt approaches France's Technicatome to upgrade its Inshas research reactor and also to build a prototype fuel fabrication plant at Inshas. Under pressure from the French government, Technicatome backs away from the deal. France, like the United States, demands that Egypt ratify the NPT before any nuclear agreement takes place.

5 August 1976
Egypt initiates a draft purchase agreement for two power reactors with the United States and the IAEA and issues a letter of intent to Westinghouse to build the first 600MW pressurized water reactor on the Alexandrian coast.

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1975
Egypt initiates a nuclear agreement with the United States to support its civilian nuclear program.

1975
Prompted by Israel's statements that it might use nuclear weapons in future conflicts with Arab states, President Sadat establishes and assumes chairmanship of the Higher Council for Atomic Energy. The Council is formed to expedite the development of Egypt's nuclear program. Military officers comprise two-thirds of the Council's membership.

1974-1979
Egypt holds secret talks with French companies to improve the country's nuclear research center. The talks involve negotiations with Technicatome to upgrade the research reactor at Inshas from 2MW to 10MW.

14 June 1974
U.S. President Richard Nixon and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat jointly endorse a statement of "Principles of Relations and Cooperation between Egypt and the United States," which promises cooperation in the nuclear sphere.

November 1974
Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmi announces that the Soviet Union has agreed to provide Egypt with a 460MW nuclear reactor.

October 1973
Egypt and Syria launch an attack against Israel to reclaim territories lost in the Six Day War. Egypt imports nine Soviet launchers and approximately 18 Scud-B missiles. The Soviet Union reportedly prepares to send nuclear warheads for the Scud-B to Egypt during the war in response to Israel's deployment of nuclear weapons. [Note: Though not a clear-cut winner, Egypt's successful initial strike against Israel highlights the fact the latter is not invincible and thus raises Sadat's image tremendously. This paves the way for Sadat to implement his desired policies, including a civilian nuclear program.]
1970
Egypt signs a nuclear cooperation agreement with India. The agreement anticipates joint research in the production of heavy water, nuclear fuels, and raw materials prospecting.

1970
The Design Consultants Association draws up plans for the construction of a "dual-purpose 40MW nuclear desalination plant" at Alexandria with the approval and support of Libyan President Muammar Qadhafi. [Note: The plans are subsequently canceled due to a rift between Egypt and Libya.]

1970
Egypt discovers uranium deposits in the Wadi Atallah region as well as minerals "secondary to uranium" in the Al Masika and al-Aridiyah regions.

September 1970
President Nasser dies. Vice-President Anwar Sadat becomes president.

1960s
1 July 1968
Possibly triggered by its losses in the June 1967 War and with the hope that Israel follows suit, Egypt signs the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

1967
Having failed to secure nuclear weapons from the Soviet Union in 1965, Egypt approaches China for nuclear arms. The latter reportedly turns down the request, advising Egypt to proceed gradually and with self-dependence.

5-10 June 1967
Following months of escalating tensions with Egypt and other Arab neighbors, culminating in the withdrawal of UN Emergency Force, Israel launches a pre-emptive strike against Egyptian air forces, thus initiating what became

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known as the Six Day War. Egypt consequently loses control of the Sinai Peninsula.

1965
Former AEE official Salah Hedayat establishes the Design Consultants Association, a nuclear engineering consultancy group, funded by the Egyptian government, to help Egypt develop an independent nuclear fuel cycle.

Late 1965
Egypt invites bids for a 150MW Western commercial-scale nuclear power plant to be located in Brog El-Arab, west of Alexandria. The plant would desalinate up to 2,000 cubic meters of seawater a day. US and West German companies offer bids for the project.

December 1965
Alarmed by Israel’s activities at Dimona Nuclear Research Center, Egypt approaches the Soviet Union to buy their nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union refuses the request, but reportedly guarantees nuclear protection if Israel develops or acquires such weapons.

1964
Egypt solicits assistance from the Soviet Union in establishing a radiochemistry division, including hot labs, at Inshas. [Note: The deal is subsequently suspended sometime in 1965 after the cancellation of a deal with Germany’s Siemens to build a heavy water reactor.]

1964
Egypt solicits suggestions from the IAEA for future sites for nuclear power stations. The IAEA suggests Inshas, Burg El Arab (west of Alexandria along the Mediterranean Coast), Wady Hof, Fayoum on Lake Quaroon, and El Tahrir. Egypt’s goals include construction of at least one nuclear power station of 200MW operating at one of these sites by 1972.

1962
Alexandria University establishes a Nuclear Engineering Department, the first department of its kind in the Arab world.

1961
President Nasser declares that if Israel obtains nuclear weapons, "we will secure atomic weapons at any costs."

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**8 February 1961**

Egypt starts operation of the Soviet-supplied 2MW research reactor at the Inshas Nuclear Research Center. The Soviet Union provides the initial fuel load of 3.2kg of 10% enriched uranium.


**Early 1960s**

Egypt's Nuclear Materials Authority begins uranium exploration. It concentrates its exploration activities in three mineralized areas in the Easter Desert and Sinai: Gabal Gattar, El Missikat and El Erediya, and Abu Zeneima. According to a 1999 IAEA/NEA report, Egypt does not report any known occurrences of conventional uranium resources, while the undiscovered speculative conventional resources amount to 15,000 tU. The unconventional resources of uranium ("estimated additional resources" and "speculative resources") are found in sedimentary phosphate deposits (6,000 tU) and monazite deposits (2,000 tU).


**1950s**

**1 March 1958**

Construction of the Soviet-supplied light water reactor to be located at Inshas commences.


**1957**

Egypt concludes its first nuclear protocol with the Soviet Union. The terms of the protocol include the supply of an experimental light water reactor for Inshas and equipment for a theoretical physics laboratory, including a Vandergraaf 2.5MW accelerator. Additionally, the Soviet Union agrees to accept Egyptian students for university training.


**1957**

Egypt selects Inshas as the site for its first nuclear research center. Inshas is located about 40-60km northeast of Cairo.


Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, [www.nti.org](http://www.nti.org).
October 1957
Egypt is one of the 23 member states elected to the first IAEA Board of Governors.
— "IAEA at 40: The Fifties," www.iaea.or.at.

June 1956
The United States begins assisting Egypt in installing a radioisotope laboratory in the National Research Center at Inshas.

1955-1957
The Egyptian Board of Atomic Energy sends missions to other countries to study their nuclear research agencies. Some of the countries visited include Austria, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Holland, India, Sweden, the United States, the Soviet Union, and West Germany.

August 1955
The UN hosts its first Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in Geneva. The Egyptian delegation makes contact with two young Egyptian researchers at the conference, Abdel Maaboud El Guibaily and Ismail Hazza, who will later play key roles in Egyptian nuclear research. [Note: El Guibaily will lead the establishment of isotope laboratories in Egypt, and Hazza would go on to head the nuclear chemistry division at the AEE Research Center in Inshas and later become Director-General of the AEE and Minister of Scientific Research.]

March 1955
The Egyptian Board of Atomic Energy is created. Its functions include formulating policy for the Atomic Energy Establishment (AEE), which in turn conducts research into the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

1955
According to a report prepared by an ad hoc committee formed by the Shura Consultative Council, Egypt launches its nuclear program. The Consultative Council serves an advisory role to the People's Assembly.

1954
Gamal Abdul Nassar becomes Egypt's prime minister.

1952
The number of Egyptian science graduates is estimated at just under 1,400. Some scientists from this pool reportedly express interest in nuclear research in so far as it relates to their field of specialization— medicine,
agriculture, engineering, and chemistry.

**23 July 1952**
Gamal Abdul Nassar leads a coup by the Free Officers' Movement against King Fuad II. As a result, Muhammad Najib becomes Egypt's president and prime minister.

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