

[REDACTED]

CIA/CPAS [REDACTED]

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**RUSSIA-IRAN: Planning Nuclear Power Cooperation**

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[REDACTED] Russia is nearing a decision to sell nuclear reactors to Iran, according to US Embassy reporting. Citing the need for hard currency and for employment for reactor scientists, [REDACTED] Moscow is considering the sale of two VVER-440 reactors, as well as technical cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and an exchange of scientists.

[REDACTED] Russia finds Western allegations that Iran poses a nuclear weapons proliferation threat unimpressive. He also said neither the recent IAEA inspection of Iranian nuclear facilities nor Russian intelligence sources had revealed any nuclear weapons program in Iran. [REDACTED]

**Comment:** Iran legitimately needs increased electrical power production; and the VVER-440 reactors—which almost certainly would be under IAEA safeguards—are ill suited to the production of weapons material. Russia's economic interests may prevail over nuclear concerns; the reactor sale could bring them up to \$4 billion. The proposed cooperation could, however, create opportunities for Iran to acquire training and equipment proscribed under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. [REDACTED]

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