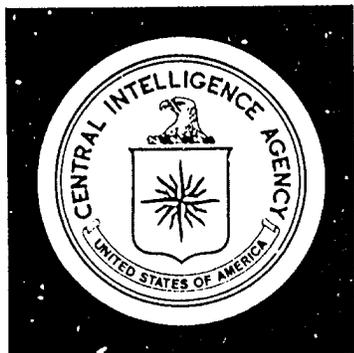


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OSI-WS-29/74

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NUCLEAR ENERGY

South Africa Not Currently in Position to Produce Nuclear Weapons: On 10 July 1974, Dr. Louw Alberts, Vice President of the South African Atomic Energy Board announced that South Africa now has the capability to construct an atomic bomb. Alberts did not deny the possibility that South Africa has or contemplates a bomb development program, but confined himself to saying that it is South African policy to use nuclear knowledge for peaceful purposes. [redacted]

Comment: South Africa is not currently in a position to produce nuclear weapons. The only reactor it now possesses is a research reactor which is under IAEA safeguards. As yet, South Africa has no means of producing enriched uranium. Their pilot plant is expected to become operational sometime in 1974. It is designed to produce only a low enriched product, not suitable for weapons production. Changes in the process, however, probably could be made which would permit the production of weapons grade enriched uranium should they decide to go into a weapons program. [redacted]

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