

# Egypt Nuclear Chronology

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[2011-2008](#) | [2007](#) | [2006](#) | [2005](#) | [2004](#) | [2003-2000](#) | [1990s](#) | [1980s](#) | [1970s](#) | [1960s](#) | [1950s](#)

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.]

—Anthony Shadid, "Obama Urges Faster Shift of Power in Egypt," *The New York Times*, 1 February 2011, [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com).

### 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.

—"Egypt to Issue Tender for Nuclear Power Plants Within Two Weeks," *Power-Gen Worldwide*, 17 January 2011, [www.powergenworldwide.com](http://www.powergenworldwide.com).

### 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.

—"Egypt: 1st Nuclear Plant Site Announced," *Associated Press*, 25 August 2010.

### 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].

—"Egyptian President Ratifies Nuclear, Radioactive Law," KUNA (Kuwait News Agency), 30 March 2010; "Mubarak Ratifies Nuclear, Radioactive Law in Egypt," NAM News Network, 31 March 2010; "Highlights of the National Commitments made at the Nuclear Security Summit," White House Office of the Press Secretary, 13 April 2010, [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov).

#### **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.

—Ola Galal, "Areva May Be Interested in Egypt's Nuclear Plans," *Bloomberg Business Week*, 24 February 2010.

#### **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.

—"South Korea to train Egyptian nuclear engineers," *World Nuclear News*, 21 January 2010; "Egypt asks S. Korea to Help Train Nuclear Energy Engineers," *Yonhap*, 18 January 2010.

#### **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," *ANSAmед*, 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.

—"Energy: Egypt, Report on First Nuclear Plant Completed," *ANSAmед*, 22 December 2009.

#### **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.

—"Energy: Egypt, EU Invests on Nuclear Safety Training Program," *ANSAmед*, 27 November 2009; "EU, Egyptian experts meet to review nuclear safety program," *Kuwait News Agency*, 27 November 2009.

#### **24 June 2009**

Sergey Kiriyyenko, 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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—"Egypt invites Russia to take part in nuclear power plant tender — official," BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union, 24 June 2009; "Egypt: Russia eyes nuclear power deals in Egypt, Nigeria," TendersInfo, 26 June 2009; "Russia to participate in NPP bid in Egypt — Rosatom," ITAR-TASS, 24 June 2009.

### **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 start-up." 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].

—Ashraf Badr and Maha El Dahan, "WorleyParsons signs Egypt atomic consultancy deal," Reuters, 18 June 2009; Michael Janda, "Australian firm to design Egypt's nuclear future," ABC News, 19 June 2009; Press Release, "1,200 Megawatt Nuclear Power Plant in Egypt," WorleyParsons.com, 19 June 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.

—Gammal Essam El-Din, "An old story made new," *Al-Ahram Weekly On-line*, No. 947, 14-20 May 2009; Mark Heinrich, "Highly-enriched uranium traces found in Egypt: IAEA," Reuters, 6 May 2009; "UN agency looks at Egyptian uranium traces," *The Irish Times*, 7 May 2009, p. 13; "Egypt Brushes off Reports of Nuclear Traces," Reuters (Cairo), 7 May 2009.

### **3 May 2009**

Egypt drops Bechtel as the consultant for its first nuclear power 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.

—"Egypt drops Bechtel as nuke consultant," Associated Press Financial Wire, 3 May 2009; "Egypt invites WorleyParsons as Bechtel talks stall," Reuters (Cairo), 3 May 2009; Samuel Cizuk, "Bechtel's Nuclear Plant Talks with Egypt Stall, Australia's WorleyParsons Approached," *Global Insight*, 5 May 2009.

### **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.

—"Egypt Nuclear Reactor," *The Advertiser (Australia) — State Edition*, 24 December 2008.

#### **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.

—"Bechtel is leading contender for Egypt atomic plant," *Reuters*, 5 Nov 2008; Mark Hibbs, "Egypt to Name Foreign Consultant Soon to Guide Nuclear Power Quest," *Nucleonics Week*, 13 Nov 2008.

#### **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.

—"Russia, Egypt sign documents on nuclear energy cooperation — Putin," BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union — Political, 11 November 2008.

#### **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.

—"Egypt to Announce Winner of Nuclear Consultancy Contract in Nov 08," *Cairo MENA*, in OSC document GMP20081026950034, 26 Oct 2008.

#### **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.

—Bouthaina Abdul Rahman, "Syria Drops Bid for Seat in IAEA's Board of Governors," *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*, 4 October 2008; "Egypt Named Member of IAEA Board of Governors," Egypt State Information Service, 4 October 2008.

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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.

— "Egypt to Assess First Nuclear Plant's Tender Papers," *Xinhua.net*, 4 May 2008; "Twenty-One International Companies Bid for Egypt's Nuclear Project Consultancy," *Cairo MENA*, in OSC document GMP20080424950043, 24 April 2008.

#### **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 Gaetanjev, also cites Bulgaria's maintenance experience as grounds for Bulgaria assisting Egypt in its nuclear energy program.

— "Bulgarian President Visits Egypt, Offers Help with Nuclear Power Generation," *Cairo MENA*, in OSC document GMP20080415950070, 15 April 2008; "Egypt, Bulgaria Sign Three Agreements Covering Investments, Irrigation & Military Industries," *Egypt State Information Service*, 15 April 2008; "Envoy Says Bulgaria Ready to Help Egypt in Nuclear Energy Field," *Cairo MENA*, in OSC document GMP20080522950010, 22 May 2008.

#### **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.

— "Egypt: Minister Says Draft Law on Nuclear Energy Finalized," *Cairo MENA*, in OSC document GMP20080415950008, 14 April 2008.

#### **30 March 2008**

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

— "Egypt, France Mull Nuclear Cooperation," *Cairo MENA*, in OSC document GMP20080330950055, 30 March 2008; "France Seeks to Help Egypt in Nuclear Power Programme," Paris Agence France Press, in OSC document EUP20080331950008, 30 March 2008.

#### **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 Atomstroiekспорт, 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.

— Oleg Shchedrov, "Russia and Egypt Sign Nuclear Energy Pact," *Reuters*, 25 March 2008; "Russia, Egypt Presidents Meet Over Nuclear Energy Cooperation," *ITAR-TASS*, in OSC document CEP20080325950260, 25 March 2008, found in OSC document CEP20080325950260, 25 March 2008; "Egypt's President Visits Moscow Seeking Nuclear

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Deal," *Ria Novosti*, 24 March 2008; Zvi Mzel. "Cairo Climbs the Nuclear Pyramid," *The Jerusalem Post*, 25 March 2008.

### **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.

— "IAEA Chief: Egypt's Nuclear Program for Power Generation," *Cairo MENA*, 3 February 2008, in OSC document GMP20080203950065; "IAEA Chief on Egypt, Iran Nuclear Programmes, Israeli Attack on Syrian Site," *BBC Monitoring Middle East*, 5 February 2008.

### **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.

— "Egypt Rejects U.S. Offer for Peaceful Nuclear Partnership Initiative," *Al-Misriyun*, 1 February 2008, in OSC document GMP20080202950019; "Egypt's Rising Energy Stature," *Oil & Gas Journal*, 4 February 2008.

### **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.

— "Egypt Refuses to Sign UN Nuclear Watchdog Protocols for Stricter Inspections," *International Herald Tribune*, 12 December 2007; "Egypt Pressured by USA, France to Sign Additional Nuclear Protocol—website," *BBC Monitoring Middle East*, 16 January 2008.

[Back to Top](#)

## **2007**

### **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."

— "Blix: At Least 10 Years Before Egypt and Jordan Can Launch Nuclear Programs," Associated Press, 25 January 2007.

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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.

— "U.S. Supporting Egyptian Peaceful Nuclear Efforts," Xinhua, 3 February 2007.

### **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."

— "World Bank Ready to Finance Egyptian Nuclear Energy Ventures," IPR Strategic Business Information Database, 15 March 2007.

### **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.

— "Egypt's Peaceful Nuclear Programme Receives Acclaim Worldwide," BBC, 15 March 2007.

### **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."

— Salah Nasrawi, "Arab Summit to Consider Plan for Closer Military and Security Cooperation," Associated Press, 27 March 2007.

### **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.

— "Electricity Minister Denies Foreign Pressure to Halt Egypt's Nuclear Plans," BBC, 29 March 2007.

### **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 in line 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."

— "Egypt and Russia Drafting Nuclear Cooperation Agreements- Russian Minister," RIA Novosti, 10 April 2007; "Russia May Help Egypt Build Nuclear Plant," UPI Energy, 10 April 2007.

#### **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 capitol, stories which in the end prove to be totally without foundation."

— Mona el-Naggar, "Egyptian Nuclear Engineer is Charged with Spying for Israel," *New York Times*, 17 April 2007; "Egyptian, foreign nationals referred to trial for spying for Israel," *BBC*, 17 April 2007.

#### **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."

— "Egypt Arrests Nuclear Engineer 'Working for Israel'," Agence France Presse, 17 April 2007; "'Nuclear Spy' Arrested In Egypt," *BBC*, 17 April 2007; "Nuclear Engineer Charged with Spying for Israel," in Open Source Center document FEA20070417116762, 17 April 2007; "Egypt; Nuclear Engineer Charged as Spy," *Los Angeles Times*, 18 April 2007; "Egypt Paper Views New Espionage Case, Calls for 'Iron Hand' Treatment of Spies," in Open Source Center document GMP20070419007002, 19 April 2007.

#### **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.

— "Egypt, Russia Draw up Nuclear Cooperation Protocol-Envoy," *BBC*, 19 April 2007.

#### **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

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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."

— "Egypt to Tighten Security Surrounding Nuclear Information," in Open Source Center document GMP20070425950015, 25 April 2007.

#### **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.

— "Egypt Insists on Adding Israel to NPT," IPR Strategic Business Information Database, 1 May 2007.

#### **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.

— Alain Navarro, "Egypt jails engineer for spying for Israel," Agence France Presse, 25 June 2007.

#### **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."

— "Egypt to Finalize Nuclear Studies by the End of 2007- Minister," BBC, 10 July 2007; "Egypt Studies Use of Peaceful Nuclear Energy," BBC, 19 July 2007.

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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.

— "Egypt protests EU stance on IAEA resolution, says EU contradicts its principles," BBC, 21 September 2007; "Egypt criticizes EU for nuclear vote stance," *The Irish Times*, 22 September 2007; "Egypt regrets Western backtracking on supporting nuclear-free-Mideast," BBC, 22 September 2007.

### **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.

— "Egypt welcomes IAEA endorsement of draft resolution on nuclear-free Mideast," BBC, 21 September 2007.

### **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.

— "President Mubarak reviews Egypt's national energy strategy," BBC, 25 October 2007; "Egypt to set up nuclear power plants in cooperation with IAEA-president," BBC, 29 October 2007; Michael Slackman, "Egypt: Mubarak Revives Nuclear Program," *New York Times*, 30 October 2007; Andrew England, "Egypt Announces Nuclear Energy Plans," *Financial Times*, 30 October 2007; Jeffrey Fleishman, "Egypt plans several nuclear power plants," *Los Angeles Times*, 30 October 2007; "Egypt to build nuke plants," *Northern Territory News*, 31 October 2007; "Egypt, EC prepare memorandum of understanding for cooperation in energy domain," BBC, 1 November 2007; Diplomatic effort important to follow Egypt nuclear plan announcement- official," BBC," 1 November 2007; Dan Murphy,

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"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.

— "Egypt to finalize draft nuclear law soon- power minister," BBC, 29 October 2007.

#### **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.

— "Egyptian government plan includes nuclear energy station-official," BBC, 3 November 2007.

#### **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

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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.

— "Egypt supports Saudi uranium proposal," BBC, 9 November 2007.

#### **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.

— "Egypt to Issue Global tender in December 07 to Choose Nuclear Sites," *Al Misri al-Yawm*, 29 November 2007, in OSC document GMP20071129950026; "Egypt to launch international tender for nuclear power station," *BBC Monitoring Middle East*, 15 February 2008.

#### **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.

— "Russia, Egypt Say Nuclear Energy Cooperation Agreement to be Signed Soon," *RIA-Novosti*, 14 December 2007, in OSC document CEP20071214950243; "Russia, Egypt to Sign Nuclear Energy Agreement," *Mathaba.net*, 15 December 2007.

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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.

— "Egyptian President, French Counterpart Give News Conference," *BBC Monitoring Middle East*, 30 December 2007; "Sarkozy, in Egypt, Offers French Nuclear Assistance to Cairo," *Ha'aretz*, 29 December 2007.

### **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.

— "Larijani says Iran Ready to Cooperate with Egypt on Nuclear Technology," *Cairo MENA*, 30 December 2007, in OSC document GMP20071230950037; Yoav Stern. "Iranian Envoy Offers Egypt Cooperation on Nuclear Program," *Ha'aretz*, 30 December 2007.

[Back to Top](#)

## **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.

— "Minister Says Egypt 'Closely Following' Iranian Nuclear Issue," BBC, 16 January 2006; "Foreign Minister Says Egypt Keen on Making Middle East Free of WMDs," Middle East News Agency, in FBIS Document GMP20060116710023, 16 January 2006; "Egypt Upholds Iran's Right to Nuclear Technology," BBC, 19 January 2006; "Egypt's Abu-al-Ghayt Says Arab-Israeli Conflict Hinders Cooperation," Middle East News Agency, in FBIS Document GMP20060213710012, 13 February 2006.

### **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.

— "Egypt, Europe Sign Higher Education Agreement," Middle East News Agency, in FBIS Document GMP20060117719013, 17 January 2006.

### **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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materials. Another committee is researching the aspects of Israel's nuclear program that violate the NPT and has asked that the results be submitted at the next meeting of the IAEA along with a resolution on IAEA safeguards in the Middle East.

— "Egypt: Arab League Committee Discusses WMD-free Middle East," Middle East News Agency, in FBIS Document GMP20060122710040, 22 January 2006.

#### **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.

— "Egypt, Russia Discuss Nuke Cooperation," *Middle East Newswire*, 27 January 2006.

#### **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.

— "Egypt Urges Israel to Release Palestinian Funds, Hamas to Take Responsibility," Middle East News Agency, 1 February 2006.

#### **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."

— "Egypt's Foreign Minister Urges More Diplomacy After IAEA Decision on Iran," BBC, 4 February 2006; "Elaine Sciolino, David E. Sanger, Steven R. Weisman, and Nazila Fathi, "Nuclear Panel Votes to Report Tehran to U.N.," *New York Times*, 5 February 2006; "Confrontation with Iran Over Nuclear Capability," *Dhaka Courier*, 3 March 2006; "Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement in the Islamic Republic of Iran Resolution Adopted on 4 February 2006," *International Atomic Energy Agency*, 4 February 2006.

#### **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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— "Egyptian Opposition Leader Seeks Nuclear Reactors," Reuters, 22 February 2006; "Turkey Decides on First Nuke Plant," *Middle East Newslines*, 23 February 2006.

#### **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.

— Joel Brinkley, "Rice, on Tour, Finds Egypt Unreceptive to Hamas Aid Cutoff," *New York Times*, 21 February 2006; "Remarks by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ali Aboul Gheit After Their Meeting (as released by the State Department)," *Federal News Service*, 21 February 21, 2006; "U.S. Secretary of State, Egyptian Foreign Minister Hold News Conference," *BBC*, 22 February 2006.

#### **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.

— Yoo Cheong-mo, "(Yonhap Interview) Egypt Indicates Support for S. Korea's UN Candidate," *Yonhap*, 23 February 2006; "South Korean President Ends Visit to Egypt, Leaves for Nigeria," *Yonhap*, 9 March 2006.

#### **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.

— Habib Toumi, "Egypt's Mubarak Begins Gulf Tour," *Gulf News*, 26 February 2006.

#### **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.

— "DPRK Party Organ Claims DPRK 'Main Target' of US Nuclear Preemptive Attack," *Pyongyang Rodong Sinmun*, in FBIS Document KPP20060315051003, 15 March 2006.

#### **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.

— "Arab Parliamentarians Discuss Egyptian Strategy on Collective Action," Middle East News Agency, 28 February 2006.

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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."

— "Iraqi Draft Resolution on Kuwaiti POWs Presented at Cairo Summit," Kuwaiti News Agency, 4 March 2006; "AL Chief Musa Says US-Iran Dialogue on Iraq to Ease Nuclear Dispute," Middle East News Agency, in FBIS Document GMP20060322710016, 22 March 2006; "Arab Leaders to Voice Great Concern for Setback in NPT," Kuwaiti News Agency, 26 March 2006.

#### **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."

— "Khartoum Summit Reveals Dualistic Arab Agreement," *al-Safir*, 3 March 2006; "Arab Nations Urged to Enter Nuclear Club," Associated Press, 28 March 2006.

#### **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.

— "Concluding General Debate, Disarmament Commission Hears Calls for Adherence to Test-ban, Non-proliferation Treaties," U.S. Fed News, 11 April 2006.

#### **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.

— "Arabs Prompted to Seek Nuclear Energy," United Press International, 18 April 2006.

#### **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.

— "Egypt, France Urge Dialogue on Iran's Nuclear Program," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 19 April 2006; "Chirac, Mubarak Urge Diplomacy with Iran," Agence France Presse, 19 April 2006; "Egyptian, French Presidents Discuss Regional Issues at News Conference," *BBC*, 20 April 2006.

#### **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."

— "Egypt: ForMin Abu-al-Ghayt Denies Egypt, US Agree to Topple HAMAS Government," *Al-Sharq al-Awset*, 5 May 2006, in Open Source Document GMP20060505700002.

#### **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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— Aluf Ben, "Israel, US 'At Odds' on Nuke Treaty Proposal; Olmert Asked Not to Raise Issue," *Ha'aretz*, 19 May 2006 in Open Source Center Document GMP20060519613004.

#### **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.

— "FYI - Egypt's Mubarak Calls for Avoiding Double-Standards on Nuclear Weapons," Nile News TV, 20 May 2006, in Open Source Center Document GMP20060520710026.

#### **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 to 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."

— "Egyptian Foreign Minister's Interview in Spanish Newspaper," *El Pais*, 29 May 2006, in Open Source Center Document EUP20060529950047.

#### **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.

— "Egypt Welcomes Outcome of NAM Ministerial Conference," Middle East News Agency, 31 May 2006, in Open Source Center Document GMP20060531710042.

#### **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."

— "Egypt to Cooperate with U.S. on Preventing Nuclear Smuggling," United States Department of State, 22 June 2006.

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#### **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.

— "Egypt Rejects Olmert's Unilateral Border Plan with Palestinians," BBC, 25 June 2006.

#### **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.

— "Project to Explore Conditions Inside Planet," *US States News*, 27 June 2006.

#### **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.

— "Xinhua World News Summary at 0030 GMT, Sept. 7," Xinhua, 7 September 2006; "Arabs Urged to Acquire Nuke Tech," Middle East Newline, 13 September 2006.

#### **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.

— "Egypt: Arab League Chief Supports Arab Right to Use Nuclear Energy," Middle East News Agency, OSC Document GMP200600908950008, 7 September 2006.

#### **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.

— "Zimbabwe; Delegation on Nuclear Technology Expected," Africa News, 7 August 2006.

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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.

— "Resolution on 'Israeli Nuclear Threat' Presented at IAEA Conference," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 21 September 2006; Veronika Oleksyn, "Arab Nations Continue to Push Resolution Labeling Israel a Threat," Associated Press, 22 September 2006.

### **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.

— Christine Spolar, "More Nations Clamor for Nuclear Energy," *Chicago Tribune*, 18 October 2006.

### **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.

— "Mubarak's Son Proposes Developing Nuclear Energy," Associated Press, 19 September 2006; Michael Slackman and Mona El-Naggar, "Mubarak's Son Proposes Nuclear Program," *New York Times*, 20 September 2006; "Egyptian Ruling Party Official Says President Entitled to Appoint Vice-President," Middle East News Agency, 20 September 2006; "Egypt: Mubarak's Son Pushes Nuke Energy," AFX, 20 September 20, 2006; "Egyptian Ruling Party Meeting Discusses Peaceful Usage of Nuclear Energy," Middle East News Agency, 21 September 2006; "Egypt Unveils Nuclear Power Plan," BBC, 25 September 2006; "Egyptian President Mubarak; 'We Must Take Greater Advantage of New...Energy Sources, Including Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy': Renewed Debate in Egypt on Egyptian Nuclear Program for Peaceful Purposes," The Middle East Media Research Institute, 26 September 2006.

### **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.

— "U.S. Ready to Give Nuclear Aid to Egypt, Envoy Says," Global Security Newswire, 21 September 2006; "U.S. Could Cooperate with Egypt on Nuclear Energy: Envoy," *Reuters*, 21 September 2006.

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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 of all 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.

— "Egyptian President Discusses Reform Plans, Nuclear Energy at Party Conference," BBC, 22 September 2006; "Egypt's President Urges Nuclear Energy Debate," Global Security Newswire, 22 September 2006; "Mubarak: We Want to Develop Nuclear Energy," *Yediot Aharonot*, 22 September 2006; "William Wallis and Roula Khalaf, 'Speculations After Egypt Revives Nuclear Plans,'" *Financial Times*, 25 September 2006; "Egyptian President Mubarak; 'We Must Take Greater Advantage of New...Energy Sources, Including Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy': Renewed Debate in Egypt on Egyptian Nuclear Program for Peaceful Purposes," The Middle East Media Research Institute, 26 September 2006.

### **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.

— "Veronika Oleksyn, "Arab Nations Fail to Get Vote on Resolution on Israel's Nuclear Capabilities," Associated Press, 22 September 2006; "Egypt Welcomes Endorsement of Proposal to Apply IAEA Safeguards System to Mideast," Xinhua, 23 September 2006; "Egyptian FM Comments on IAEA Resolution on Mideast Nuclear Safeguards," Middle East News Agency, 23 September 2006; "Egypt Slams West for Blocking Resolution on Israeli Nuclear Arms," Reuters, 24 September 2006; "Israel-Nuclear-Iran," Islamic Republic News Agency, 24 September 2006; "Egypt Hails IAEA Resolution," *Financial Times*, 27 September 2006 "Why Egypt is Joining the Nuclear-Power Game," *The Economist*, 30 September 2006.

### **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

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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."

— "Report on Egypt's Plans to Build Three Nuclear Power Stations," *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*, OSC Document GMP20060924836007, 24 September 2006; "Egypt to Start Building Nuclear Power Plants Soon, Minister Says," The Associated Press, 24 September 2006; "IAEA to Help Egypt in Developing Peaceful Nuclear Technology," Middle East News Agency, OSC Document GMP20060924950022, 24 September 2006; Lin Jianyang, "Roundup: Egypt Decides to Pursue Nuclear Energy," Xinhua, 24 September 2006; "Egyptian Energy Council Decides to Pursue Nuclear Power Option," Middle East News Agency, 24 September 2006; Rafael Bikbayev, "Egypt is About to Launch National Atomic Energy Program," ITAR-TASS, 24 September 2006; Alain Navarro, "Egypt to Relaunch Civil Nuclear Program," Agence France Presse, 24 September 2006; Herb Keinon and Associated Press, "Olmert Unfazed by Egypt's Plans to Build Nuclear Plants," *The Jerusalem Post*, 25 September 2006; William Wallis and Roula Khalaf, "Speculation After Egypt Revives Nuclear Plans," *Financial Times*, 25 September 2006; Paul Reynolds, "Concern Over Middle East Nuclear Plans," BBC, 25 September 2006; "Egypt to Begin Building Nuclear Power Reactors," Global Security Newswire, 25 September 2006; "Egypt to Relaunch Civil Nuclear Program," Turkish Daily News, 26 September 2006; "Aswan Dam," Wikipedia, 17 October 2006; "Egyptian President Mubarak; 'We Must Take Greater Advantage of New...Energy Sources, Including Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy': Renewed Debate in Egypt on Egyptian Nuclear Program for Peaceful Purposes," The Middle East Media Research Institute, 26 September 2006.

#### **25 September 2006**

Officials in Egypt state that the nuclear program is only intended to provide a source of energy and there are no

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plans to use this technology to produce weapons.

— Richard Beeston and Suna Erdem, "Nations Raise Stakes in Arms Race by Revealing Nuclear Ambitions," *The Times*, 25 September 2006.

#### **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.

— Herb Keinon and the Associated Press, "Olmert Unfazed by Egypt's Plans to Build Nuclear Plants," *Jerusalem Post*, 25 September 2006.

#### **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.

— "Egypt to Host Pugwash Conference," Middle East News Agency, 26 September 2006.

#### **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.

— "France Says Egypt Has 'Legal' Right to Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy," Middle East News Agency, OSC Document GMP20060926950031, 26 September 2006; "Remarks by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesman, Discussing Events in the Middle East (French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Paris, September 26, 2006)," Federal News Service, 27 September 2006.

#### **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.

— "Selection List: Egyptian Pres 26 Sep 06," *Al-Wafd*, OSC Document: GMP20060926013001, 26 September 2006.

#### **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.

— "Egyptian Press Highlights 26 Sep 06," BBC, 26 September 2006.

#### **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.

— "Major News Items in Leading Egyptian Newspapers," Xinhua, 28 September 2006.

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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.

— "Russia Ready to Help Egypt with Nuclear Power- Cairo Ambassador," Middle East News Agency, 28 September 2006; "Envoy: Russia Ready to Cooperate with Egypt in Use of Peaceful Nuclear Energy," Middle East News Agency, OSC Document GMP20060928950016, 28 September 2006.

### **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.

— "Israeli Labour MP Says Final Status Deal with Palestinians Top Priority," BBC, 1 October 2006.

### **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.

— "Egypt's Jamal Mubarak Supporters, Opponents Comment on Nuclear Remarks," BBC, 30 September 2006.

### **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.

— "Foreign Minister Reiterates Egypt's Right to Peaceful Nuclear Technology," Middle East News Agency, 29 September 2006.

### **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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Document GMP20060928950043, 28 September 2006; "Major News Items in Leading Egyptian Newspapers," Xinhua, 1 October 2006.

### **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.

— "Egypt Writer: Olmert Remarks Indicate Israeli Approval of Egypt Nuclear Program," Middle East News Agency, OSC Document: GMP20061005013002, 4 October 2006.

### **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.

— "Major News Items in Leading Egyptian Newspapers," Xinhua News Agency, 3 October 2006; "Egypt's Energy Minister on Nuclear 'Dream'," *Al-Ahram*, OSC Document: GMP20061006007002, 6 October 2006.

### **5 October 2006**

Francis J. Ricciardone, the U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, states that the U.S. will send a group of nuclear energy

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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.

— "US Envoy Says Nuclear Energy Experts to Visit Egypt Soon," Middle East News Agency, in OSC Document: GMP20061005950020, 5 October 2006.

#### **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.

— "Egypt: Electricity Minister Meets Nuclear Safety Authority," Middle East News Agency, in OSC Document: GMP20061005950027, 5 October 2006; "Egypt's Energy Minister on Nuclear 'Dream'," *Al-Ahram*, in OSC Document: GMP20061006007002, 6 October 2006.

#### **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.

— "US Backs Egypt's Call for Nuclear Power Conference in December," Middle East News Agency, 7 October 2006.

#### **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.

— "Egyptian Government Policies Assailed at Muslim Brotherhood Banquet," *Al-Wafd*, 7 October 2006.

#### **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.

— "Major News Items in Leading Egyptian Newspapers," Xinhua News Agency, 9 October 2006.

#### **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.

— "Jamal Mubarak Says Egyptian Nuclear Plans Not Linked to Foreign Deal," *Nahdat Misr*, in OSC Document: GMP20061009950033, 9 October 2006.

#### **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

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Document: GMP20061009013002, 9 October 2006; "Egyptian Parliamentary Panel Considers Peaceful Nuclear Energy Plans," BBC, 9 October 2006.

#### **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 Document: GMP20061009013002, 9 October 2006; "Egyptian Press Highlights 9 Oct 06," BBC, 9 October 2006.

#### **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.

— "The World Tonight 10:00 PM BBC Radio," Global Broadcast Database, 9 October 2006.

#### **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.

— "Visiting German MPs Support Egypt's Plan to Use New, Renewable Energy," Middle East News Agency, 9 October 2006.

#### **11 October 2006**

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

— "Ukraine to Launch Egypt's Third Satellite Within Three Months," Middle East News Agency, 11 October 2006.

#### **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.

— "Egyptian Cabinet Affirms Right to Develop Nuclear Energy," Middle East News Agency, 11 October 2006.

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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.

— "Egyptian Press Highlights 13 Oct 06," *Al-Wafd*, 13 October 2006; "ITAR-TASS News Outlook for Sunday, October 15," *ITAR-TASS*, 15 October 2006; Rafael Bikbayev, "Egypt to Involve Energy Partners in NPP Project," *ITAR-TASS*, 16 October 2006.

### **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.

— "Egypt to Recruit Experts for Its Nuclear Project, Minister Says," *Al-Misri al-Yawm*, OSC Document: GMP20061016950021, 16 October 2006.

### **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."

— "Egypt Calls for Nuclear-Free Middle East," Middle East News Agency, 17 October 2006.

### **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.

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— "Egypt: Shura Council Committee Praises Nuclear Energy Decision," Middle East News Agency, in OSC Document: GMP20061019950021, 19 October 2006.

#### **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.

— "UN: Middle East Nuclear Proliferation, Confidence-Building in Conventional Arms Addressed in Disarmament Committee Draft Texts," M2 Presswire, 20 October 2006.

#### **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 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.

— "Egyptian Minister Calls for Nuclear Bill Draft," *Xinhua*, 20 October 2006.

#### **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.

— "Egypt Revives Nuclear Program for Electricity Generation: FM," *Xinhua News Agency*, 20 October 2006; "Foreign Ministry Holds Meeting on Egypt's Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy," Middle East News Agency, in OSC Document: GMP20061020950031, 20 October 2006.

[Back to Top](#)

## **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.

— Arie O'Sullivan, "Exclusive: Nuke Trader Khan Gave Major Boost to Arab State," *The Jerusalem Post*, 4 January 2005.

#### **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.

— "IAEA Finds Egypt Secret Nuclear Program" The Associated Press, 4 January 2005.

#### **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.

— Dafna Linzer, "Egyptians Reportedly Took Part in Past Nuclear Experiments" *Washington Post*, 5 January 2005.

#### **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 the apparent lack of real focus suggests that the discovery is relatively less alarming than recent revelations about nuclear experimentation in South Korea.

— Anne Penketh, "Egypt Carried Out Secret Nuclear Tests" *The Independent* (London), 5 January 2005.

#### **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.

— "Egypt: Foreign Minister, Nuclear Energy Experts Deny Egypt Conducted 'Secret' Tests" *Al-Misri Al-Yawm* (Cairo), 6 January 2005; FBIS-translated text.

### **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.

— "U.S. Backs Egypt's Assertions of No Nuke Development" *Al-Jazeera*, 11 January 2005; Janine Zacharia, "U.S.: Egyptian Experiments Not Part of Nuclear Weapons Program" *The Jerusalem Post*, 11 January 2005.

### **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.

— "Egypt: Editorial Disclaims Bid to Produce Nuclear Weapons" *Al-Wafd* (Cairo), 13 January 2005; FBIS-translated text.

### **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.

— "UN Inspectors Now Looking at Nuclear Lab in Egypt: Diplomats" Agence France Presse, 20 January 2005; "Egypt and Nuclear Weapons," *Washington Times*, 24 January 2005, p. 20.

### **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."

— "Egypt Says Committed to Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Obligations," MENA (Cairo), 25 January 2005.

#### **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.

— "Egyptian-International Nuclear Watchdog Dialogue 'Going Well,'" MENA (Cairo), 27 January 2005.

#### **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."

— "Q&A: ElBaradei, Feeling the Nuclear Heat," *Washington Post*, 30 January 2005.

#### **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.

— "IAEA Investigating Egypt and Taiwan," *Arms Control Today*, February 2005.

#### **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.

— "Rep. Nadler Urges Secretary of State Rice to Investigate Secret Nuclear Programs in the Middle East," HT Media Ltd., 4 February 2005.

### **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.

— "IAEA Writing Report on Egyptian Nuclear Reporting Failures," Agence France Presse, 4 February 2005.

#### **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.

— "International Roundup: Asia: Nuclear Sales Report Rejected," *The Guardian*, 8 February 2005.

#### **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-Wuttermberg, Peter Frankenberg, claims the experiments focus on cancer research and locating subterranean waters in the desert.

— "Egypt Using Nuclear Energy for Medical Purposes - German Official," *Financial Times*, 10 February 2005.

#### **10 February 2005**

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

— "U.S. Continues Effort to Oust ElBaradei," Global Security Newswire, 10 February 2005.

#### **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.

— "Washington Steps Up Campaign to Remove UN's Nuclear Chief," *Sunday Telegraph*, 13 February 2005.

#### **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".

— "IAEA: Egypt Up Front About Atomic Arms," Associated Press, 14 February 2005.

#### **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.

— "UN Agency Says Egypt Failed to Report Nuclear Materials, Activities," Agence France Presse, 14 February 2005, in FBIS Document EUP20050214000234.

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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.

— "Nuclear Agency's Report on Egypt Suggests Cairo Up Front About its Activities," Associated Press, 14 February 2005.

#### **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.

— "U.N. Report Finds Secret Egyptian Nuclear Experiments not an Overt Attempt to Make Atomic Weapons," Associated Press, 14 February 2005.

#### **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.

— "U.N. Nuclear Watchdog Chides Egypt," *New York Times*, 15 February 2005.

#### **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.

— "US Praises Egypt's Nuclear Openness," Reuters, 2 March 2005.

#### **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.

— "BTA Details Bulgarian Government 2 Mar Regular Weekly Meeting Decisions," Bulgarian News Agency (BTA), 2 March 2005, in FBIS Document EUP20050302000183.

#### **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."

— Greg Webb, "Case Closed on Egyptian Nuclear Research," Global Security Newswire, 2 March 2005.

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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.

— "IAEA Board Hails Egypt's Cooperation, Nuclear Transparency," MENA, 3 March 2005, in FBIS Document EUP20050303000232.

### 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.

— Miles Pomper, "ElBaradei Unopposed for Third Term," *Arms Control Today*, March 2005.

### 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.

— "The First Coming: What the Middle East Expects from Vladimir Putin's Visit," *Kommersant*, 26 April 2005; "BBC Monitoring Quotes from Russian Press: Wednesday 27 April 2005," *Financial Times*, 27 April 2005.

### 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."

— "Moscow Daily Views Putin-Mubarak Talks," *Moscow Izvestiya*, 28 April 2005, in FBIS document CEP20050428009001.

### 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.

— "Landmark Nuclear Treaty Under Sharp Scrutiny at U.N.," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 30 April 2005.

### 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.

— Joseph Cirincione, "The Hunt for El Baradei," *Foreign Policy*, May 2005.

### 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."

— "Russian Atomic Energy Chief Details Plans for Nuclear Cooperation with Iran," BBC, 17 May 2005.

#### **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.

— "NBC News Meet the Press," *NBC*, 15 May 2005.

#### **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.

— Mark Turner, "Talks on Nuclear Arms End in Failure," *Financial Times*, 28 May 2005.

#### **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.

— Anne Penketh, "El-Baradei Set to Head UN Nuclear Watchdog for Four More Years," *Independent*, 9 June 2005.

#### **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.

— "IAEA Chief ElBaradei Reappointed for 3rd Term," Tokyo Kyodo, 13 June 2005, in FBIS Document JPP20050613000118; "ElBaradei Re-Elected by Consensus as UN Nuclear Chief," Agence France Presse, 13 June 2005.

#### **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.

— "Egypt Participates in Conference on Nuclear Proliferation," Info-Prod Research, Ltd., 20 July 2005.

#### **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.

— "Egypt's Nuclear Agency Says Fully Committed to Non-Proliferation Treaty," BBC, 9 August 2005.

#### **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.

— "Egypt Says NPT Endorsement Linked to Regional, Int'l Developments," MENA, 26 August 2005, in FBIS Document GMP20050826710052; "Egypt Refuses Request to Join Test Ban Treaty," *Global Security Newswire*, 7 September 2005.

#### **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."

— "UN Declaration 'Responds to Many Egyptian Initiatives' - Foreign Minister," MENA, 15 September 2005.

#### **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."

— "Egypt: Foreign Minister on UN Summit, Egyptians in Iraq, Gaza, US Relations," *Al-Ahram*, 17 September 2005, in FBIS Document GMP20050917007008.

#### **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.

— "FM Says Egypt's Proposal on Nuclear-Free Middle East Widely Welcomed at UN," MENA, 18 September 2005, in FBIS Document GMP20050918710020.

#### **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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Republic of Egypt Before the Sixtieth Session of The United Nations General Assembly 21 September 2005," IAEA, 21 September 2005.

### **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.

— "Egypt Proposes Nuclear-Free Middle East," Global Security Newswire, 29 September 2005; "UN: Transcript of Press Conference on Middle East, by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Quartet Foreign Ministers, at United Nations Headquarters, 20 September 2005," M2 Presswire, 21 September 2005.

### **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.

— "General Conference Adopts Resolutions on Nuclear Issues," International Atomic Energy Agency, 30 September 2005; "Arab Countries Fail to Obtain IAEA Denunciation of Israel as 'Nuclear Threat,'" Agence France Presse, in FBIS Document EUP20050930102015, 30 September 2005; "Egypt Proposes Nuclear-free-zone in Middle East," Agence France Presse, 28 September 2005; "El Baradei Details IAEA's Priority Activities in Address to General Conference," *International Atomic Energy Agency*, in FBIS Document EUP20050926001005, 26 September 2005.

### **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.

— "Egypt, Syria Seek to Turn Nuclear," *Middle East Newslines*, 18 October 2005; "Intelligence Report Traces Covert Arms Programmes," *Guardian Weekly*, 14 October 2005.

### **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."

— Doug Mellgren, "U.N. Nuclear Watchdog Wins Nobel Peace Prize," Associated Press, 7 October 2005.

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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 is necessary for regional security.

— "Egypt's FM on IAEA, NPT, WMD-Free Mideast; Urges Parity in Security Arrangements," *Al-Ahram*, 13 October 2005, in FBIS Document GMP20051013007007.

### **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.

— "Egyptian Foreign Minister Visits Russia for Talks on Peace Process, Iraq," BBC, 18 October, 2005.

### **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."

— Maria Pshenichnikova, "Iran's Problem Needs Patience - Egyptian Foreign Minister," ITAR-TASS, 19 October 2005.

### **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.

— "Egyptian Foreign Minister: Moscow, Cairo Agree on Energy Cooperation," ITAR-TASS, 19 October, 2005, in FBIS Document CEP20051019027132.

### **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.

— "UN: Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, Bolstering Global Non-proliferation Regime, Among Issues Addressed, as First Committee Approves 21 Draft Texts; Importance of Test-Ban Treaty, Risk of Middle East Nuclear Proliferation, Assurances for Non-Nuclear Weapon States Also Highlighted," M2 Presswire, 26 October 2005.

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### **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.

— Nabil Fahmy, "Sixty Years Later: Remarks Delivered by H.E. Nabil Fahmy Ambassador of Egypt to the United States," The 2005 Carnegie International Non-Proliferation Conference, 7 November 2005.

### **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.]

— Judy Siegel, "Israel Helping to Build ME Nuclear Accelerator. Alongside Iran Pakistan Jordan Egypt and the PA," *Jerusalem Post*, 15 November 2005, p. 7.

### **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.

— "Source Dismisses Israeli Claims on Egyptian Military Help to Iran, Palestinians," Middle East News Agency, in FBIS Document GMP20051230710014, 30 December 2005.

[Back to Top](#)

## **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.

— "Report: Libya, Egypt Swapped Nukes," United Press International, 31 March 2004.

### **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.

— "The Director of the IAEA Is Accused of Covering Up a Clandestine Egyptian Nuclear Program," *Liberation*, 2 November 2004.

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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.

— "Egypt Rejects Charges IAEA Chief Helping It With Secret Nuclear Program," Agence France Presse, 3 November 2004.

### **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.

— George Jahn, "U.N.: Traces of Plutonium Found in Egypt," Associated Press, 3 November 2004.

[Back to Top](#)

## **2003-2000**

### **3 January 2003**

According to Middle East Newslines, 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.

— "Jordan Plans to Launch Nuclear Facility," Middle East Newslines, Vol. 5, No. 3, 3 January 2003, [www.menewslines.com](http://www.menewslines.com).

### **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.

— Salah Nasrawi, "Mubarak, Assad Call for Region Free of WMDs," *The Jerusalem Post*, 25 December 2003, p.5.

### **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

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Chinese assistance with mining of uranium deposits on the Sinai Peninsula and investigating the possibilities of production of uranium hexafluoride (UF<sub>6</sub>). 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."

—"President Jiang Zemin Holds Talks with Egyptian President Mubarak," Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Finland, 24 January 2002, [www.chinaembassy-fi.org](http://www.chinaembassy-fi.org); "Embassy Spokesman On the So-called China's Assistance to Egypt in Developing Nuclear Weapons As Reported by German Newspaper Die Welt," Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Arab Republic of Egypt, 27 June 2002, [www.chinaembassy.org.eg](http://www.chinaembassy.org.eg); Jacques Schuster, "Cairo Wants to Build Nuclear Bomb; Egypt is Said to Be about to Enrich Uranium with Help from China and to Purchase Long-Range Missiles," *Die Welt*, 22 June 2002, in "German Daily Egypt Wants to Build Nuclear Bomb, Acquiring Long Range Missiles," FBIS Document EUP20020621000487, 06/22/2002; Mark Hibbs, "Claim Egypt Has Secret Program Unfounded, U.S. Tells Germany," *Nucleonics Week*, Vol. 43, No. 28, p. 9, 11 July 2002, in Lexis-Nexis, [www.lexis-nexis.com](http://www.lexis-nexis.com), 25 July 2002.

#### **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."

—Mustafa al-Fiqi, "Nuclear Arms and the Middle East Conflict," *Al-Ahram*, 21 May 2002, in "Middle East Nuclear Strategic Balance Viewed," FBIS, GMP20020521000304.

#### **June 2002**

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

—"China Denies Giving Egypt Nuclear Help," United Press International, 1 July 2002. [www.upi.com](http://www.upi.com).

#### **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."

—"Embassy Spokesman On the So-called China's Assistance to Egypt in Developing Nuclear Weapons As Reported by German Newspaper Die Welt," Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Arab Republic of Egypt, 27 June 2002, [www.chinaembassy.org.eg](http://www.chinaembassy.org.eg).

#### **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.

—James Hackett, "Egypt to Pose a Future Threat?" *Washington Times*, 23 July 2002.

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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."

—Ashraf al-Sabbagh, "Egyptian Minister Cited on Egyptian-Russian Nuclear Cooperation," *Abha Al-Watan*, 29 April 2001, in FBIS Document GMP20010429000055; "Egypt, Russia Sign Cooperation Agreement on Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy," Middle East News Agency, 28 April 2001; in BBC, 28 April 2001.

### **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.

—World Energy Council, "Nuclear," *Survey of Energy Resources, 2001* (London, 2001), [www.worldenergy.org](http://www.worldenergy.org).

### **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."

—*Al-Ahram Weekly* (Egypt), 9 March 2000, as cited in Yotam Feldner, "Egypt Rethinks its Nuclear Program: The Egyptian Nuclear Lobby (2)," The Middle East Media Research Institute, 22 January 2003, [www.memri.org](http://www.memri.org).

[Back to Top](#)

## **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."

— *Al-Ahram Weekly* (Egypt), 21 October 1999, as cited in Yotam Feldner, "Egypt Rethinks its Nuclear Program: The Egyptian Nuclear Lobby (2)," The Middle East Media Research Institute, 22 January 2003, [www.memri.org](http://www.memri.org).

### **February 1998**

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

— "Company Says Nuclear Reactor in Egypt 'Operational'," *Telam*, 12 March 1998, in FBIS Document PY1303223098, 03/12/1998; The Risk Report, Vol. 6, No. 5 (September-October 2000).

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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.

— "Table of Projects," Electric Power Systems Engineering Company, [www.eps-egypt.com](http://www.eps-egypt.com), 10 April 2003.

#### **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."

— George Sam'an, "Egypt's Mubarak on Current Issues," *Al-Hayah* (London), 5 October 1998, via FBIS, FTS19981006000309, 6 October 1998.

#### **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.

— P.J. Gowin, T. Konishi and J. Kupitz, "Nuclear and Fossil Seawater Desalination: General Considerations and Economic Evaluation," IAEA, November 1998, [www.worldwatercouncil.org](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org).

#### **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."

— "Table of Projects," Electric Power Systems Engineering Company, [www.eps-egypt.com](http://www.eps-egypt.com), 10 April 2003.

#### **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."

— "Table of Projects," Electric Power Systems Engineering Company, [www.eps-egypt.com](http://www.eps-egypt.com), 10 April 2003.

#### **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.

— "Second Research Reactor Proceeding to Full Power," *Nuclear News*, May 1998, in Lexis-Nexis, 1 June 1998; "Company Says Nuclear Reactor in Egypt 'Operational'," *Telam*, 12 March 1998, in FBIS Document PY1303223098.

#### **1996**

A new uranium deposit area is discovered at Gebel Kadabora.

— "Egypt's Budding Nuclear Program," *The Risk Report*, Vol. 2, No. 5, (September-October 1996).

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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 U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> powder, structural components, fuel plates, fuel assembly, and quality control tasks. The starting material is uranium hexafluoride gas (UF<sub>6</sub>), 19.75 percent enriched.

— "Nuclear Research Center," Federation of American Scientists, October 1999, [www.fas.org](http://www.fas.org).

**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.

— "Minister Says Uranium Will Fuel Atomic Research Reactors," Middle East News Agency, 25 November 1996, in FBIS, FBIS-NES-96-228, 26 November 1996.

**9-13 December 1996**

The Third Arab Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy takes place in Damascus, Syria.

— El-Mashri, S.M. (ed.), Proceedings of the Third Arab Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, Vol. A, B," Arab Atomic Energy Agency, 1 June 1998, via ETDEWEB, OSTI ID 20127599, [www.etde.org](http://www.etde.org).

**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.]

— "Egypt Pursuing Plans to Build a Nuclear Plant at El-Dabaa," *Nucleonics Week*, Vol. 38, No. 1, p. 1, 2 January 1997, via Lexis-Nexis, 23 January 1997.

**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."

— "Egypt's Former Defense Minister: How to Counter the Israeli Nuclear Deterrent," *Mideast Mirror*, Vol. 9, No. 21, 31 January 1995, via Lexis-Nexis, [www.lexis-nexis.com](http://www.lexis-nexis.com).

**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.

— "Egypt's Budding Nuclear Program" *The Risk Report*, Vol. 2, No. 5, (September-October 1996); William Epstein, "Indefinite Extension with Increase Responsibility," *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, January 1995, [www.thebulletin.org](http://www.thebulletin.org).

**24 July 1995**

In an interview with an Egyptian weekly *Al Arabi*, Dr. Salah Hedayat, the Minister of Scientific Research under

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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."  
— "Egypt Unveils Nasser's Secret Nuclear Weapons Programme," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 24 July 1995, via Lexis-Nexis, [www.lexis-nexis.com](http://www.lexis-nexis.com).

#### **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."  
— "News Briefing," Uranium Institute, NB95.40-20, 27 September-3 October 1995, [www.world-nuclear.org](http://www.world-nuclear.org).

#### **5-9 November 1994**

The Second Arab Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy takes place in Cairo, Egypt.  
— "Proceedings of the Second Arab Conference on the Peaceful Uses Of Atomic Energy, Cairo 5-9/11/1994," Arab Atomic Energy Agency, 31 December 1995, via ETDEWEB, OSTI ID 375605, [www.etde.org](http://www.etde.org).

#### **2-6 February 1992**

The First Arab Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy takes place in Tripoli, Libya.  
— M. Al-Kofahi, ed., "The Proceedings of the First Arab Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy," Arab Atomic Energy Agency, 31 December 1993, via ETDEWEB, OSTI ID 170596, [www.etde.org](http://www.etde.org).

#### **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.  
— Margaret L. Ryan, "Egypt is Again Considering Construction of Nuclear Plant," *Nucleonics Week*, Vol. 33, No. 39, 24 September 1992, via Lexis-Nexis, 24 September 1992.

#### **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.  
— "Reactor To Be Imported From Argentina," Middle East News Agency, 19 September 1992, in FBIS, FBIS-NES-92-187, 25 September 1992.

#### **1 December 1992**

Construction begins on the 22MW research reactor contracted to Argentina.  
— "ETRR-2," Nuclear Research Reactors in the World, IAEA, 21 September 1998, [www.iaea.org](http://www.iaea.org).

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**1991**

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

— "Egypt's Nuclear Weapons Program," GlobalSecurity.org, 12 August 2003, [www.globalsecurity.org](http://www.globalsecurity.org).

**1991**

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

— "Nuclear Research Center," Federation of American Scientists, October 1999, [www.fas.org](http://www.fas.org).

**1990**

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

— "Egypt's Budding Nuclear Program," *The Risk Report*, Vol. 2, No. 5, (September-October 1996).

**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.

— Barbara M. Gregory, "Egypt's Nuclear Program Assessing Supplier-Based and Other Developmental Constraints," *Nonproliferation Review*, Fall 1995, p. 22.

**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."

— "Inshas Nuclear Reactor Resumes Operation," Middle East News Agency, 10 January 1990, in FBIS, FBIS-NES-90-008, 11 January 1990.

**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.

— "Establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Region of the Middle East," Report of the First Committee, United Nations, A/45/771, 21 November 1990, <http://domino.un.org>.

**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.

— "Uranium Finds Expected to Increase Energy Sufficiency," *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*, 14 November 1990, in FBIS, JPRS-TND-91-003, 25 February 1991.

[Back to Top](#)

## 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.

—Muhammad Al-Shamma, "Egypt, Morocco Sign Energy Protocol," *Al-Akhbar* (Cairo), 1 February 1989, p. 6, in "Nuclear Developments," Center for Nonproliferation Studies, 28 March 1989, p. 14.

### 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."

—Faruq Abd-al-Aziz, "Agreement Signed to Develop Domestic Uranium," *Al-Jumhuriyah*, 2 August 1989, in FBIS, JPRS-TND-89-018, 18 September 1989.

### 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.

—"Paper Cited on Local Manufacture of Nuclear Fuel," *Cairo Domestic Service*, 30 November 1989, in FBIS, FBIS-NES-89-234, 7 December 1989.

### 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.

—Joseph S. Bermudez, "Ballistic Missile Development in Egypt," *Jane's Intelligence Review*, October 1992, p. 458.

### **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.

—"Nuclear Fuel Factory Completed; Reactor Planned," *Al-Ahram*, 28 June 1987, p. 1; M.S. Abdel-Azim and A. Abdel-Halim, "Safety Analysis Report of Uranium Dioxide Fuel Laboratory, Nuclear Research," Kernforschungsanlage Juelich G.m.b.H. Conference, July 1987, via INIS, INIS No. 19-013648, 1989-12-29.

### **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.

—Barbara M. Gregory, "Egypt's Nuclear Program Assessing Supplier-Based and Other Developmental Constraints," *Nonproliferation Review*, Fall 1995, p. 25.

### **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.

—Mohammad El-Sayed Selim, "Egypt and the Middle Eastern Nuclear Issue," *Strategic Analysis*, January 1996, p. 1389.

### **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.

—Mahmud Al-Qanawati, "Official Interviewed on Nuclear Research," *Al-Ahram*, 22 November 1986, p. 3, in FBIS, FBIS-MEA-86-229, 28 November 1986.

### **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.

—Leonard S. Spector with Jacqueline R. Smith, *Nuclear Ambitions the Spread of Nuclear Weapons 1989-1990* (Westview Press, 1990), p. 196-197.

### **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.

—"Egypt May Get Uranium," Melbourne Overseas Services, 27 June 1985, in Worldwide Report, Center for Nonproliferation Studies, 24 July 1985.

#### **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.

—"Nuclear Energy Protocol Signed with South Korea," Cairo Domestic Service, 17 June 1985, in FBIS, FBIS-MEA-85-117, 18 June 1985.

#### **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.

—"First Uranium Mine to Begin Operation," Middle East News Agency, 11 August 1985, in FBIS, NC110828, 13 August 1985.

#### **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.

—"Switzerland/Egypt," *Nucleonics Week*, 19 June 1986, p. 14.

#### **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.]

—Sulayman Abd-Al-Azi, "Nuclear Power Viewed 'Only Choice' of Sufficient Energy," *Al-Musawwar*, 13 April 1990, pp. 28-31, in "Nuclear Developments," Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Doc. Code 4640, 12 June 1990, pp. 17-20; G. Henry M. Schuler (ed.), *Egypt and Nuclear Technology: The "Peace Dividend," Significant Issues Series*, Vol. 5, No. 9 (The Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1983), p. 12; Mohammad El-Sayed Selim, "Egypt and the Middle Eastern Nuclear Issue," *Strategic Analysis*, January 1996, p. 1388.

#### **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."

—G. Henry M. Schuler (ed.), *Egypt and Nuclear Technology: The "Peace Dividend," Significant Issues Series*, Vol. 5, No. 9, CSIS, 1983, p. 12; John Haldane, "U.S.-Egypt Economic Ties," *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, 18 March 1985, [www.wrmea.com](http://www.wrmea.com).

### **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.]

—"Nuclear Cooperation Agreement Signed with Niger," Middle East News Agency, 6 December 1983 in FBIS, FBIS-MEA-83-236, 7 December 1983.

### **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.

—Ghali Muhammad, "Egypt Enters Age of Nuclear Industry," *Al-Musawwar*, 3 March 1989, in "Correspondent Explores Nuclear Capabilities in Industry," FBIS, JPRS-TND-89-009, 5 May 1989; "Nuclear Research Center," *The Federation of American Scientists*, October 1999, [www.fas.org](http://www.fas.org).

### **26 February 1981**

Egypt ratifies the NPT.

—"Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements: NPT, Egypt," UN Department for Disarmament Affairs, accessed on 23 April 2003, <http://disarmament.un.org>.

### **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.]

—"Australia's Anthony Holds Talks, Press Conference," Middle East News Agency, 19 March 1981 in FBIS, FBIS-MEA-81-054, 20 March 1981.

### **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 Za'frana (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.

—"Nuclear Cooperation Agreement Signed with France," Middle East News Agency, 27 March 1981, in FBIS, NC271121, 27 March 1981; "Egypt, France Sign Nuclear Agreement," Middle East News Agency, 12 February 1981, in FBIS, NC122112, 13 February 1981; "Minister Visits France for Nuclear Power Talks," Middle East News Agency, 7 December 1982, in FBIS, NC071941, 8 December 1982; Mohammad El-Sayed Selim, "Egypt and the Middle Eastern Nuclear Issue," *Strategic Analysis*, January 1996, p. 1388; "Egypt Pursuing Plans to Build a Nuclear Plant at El-Dabaa," *Nucleonics Week*, Vol. 38, No. 1, p. 1, January 2, 1997, via Lexis-Nexis, 23 January 1997.

#### **29 June 1981**

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

—G. Henry M. Schuler (ed.), *Egypt and Nuclear Technology: The "Peace Dividend," Significant Issues Series*, Vol. 5, No. 9 (The Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1983), p. 7.

#### **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.

—Mohammad El-Sayed Selim, "Egypt and the Middle Eastern Nuclear Issue," *Strategic Analysis*, January 1996, p. 1388.

#### **September 1981**

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

—Mohammad El-Sayed Selim, "Egypt and the Middle Eastern Nuclear Issue," *Strategic Analysis*, January 1996, p. 1388.

#### **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.

—"Timeline: Egypt," BBC News, 3 March 2003, <http://news.bbc.co.uk>.

#### **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.]

—Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 53.

[Back to Top](#)

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## 1970s

### 26 March 1979

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

— "Timeline: Egypt," BBC News, 3 March 2003, <http://news.bbc.co.uk>.

### 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.

— G. Henry M. Schuler (ed.), *Egypt and Nuclear Technology: The "Peace Dividend," Significant Issues Series, Vol. 5, No. 9*, CSIS, 1983, p. 10.

### 1978

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

— Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 53.

### 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.

— "County Study and Guide: Egypt," 1Up Info Encyclopedia Online (December 1990), [www.1upinfo.com](http://www.1upinfo.com).

### 1977

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

— Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 53.

### 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.

— Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 53.

### 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.

— Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 60.

### 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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— Roger F. Pajak, "Nuclear Status and Policies of the Middle East Countries," *International Affairs*, Vol. 59, No. 4, Autumn, 1983, p. 595; Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 60.

#### **1975**

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

— Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 60.

#### **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.

— Mohammad El-Sayed Selim, "Egypt and the Middle Eastern Nuclear Issue," *Strategic Analysis*, January 1996, p. 1386; G. Henry M. Schuler (ed.), *Egypt and Nuclear Technology: The "Peace Dividend," Significant Issues Series*, Vol. 5, No. 9, CSIS, 1983, p. 2.

#### **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.

— Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 60.

#### **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.

— G. Henry M. Schuler (ed.), *Egypt and Nuclear Technology: The "Peace Dividend," Significant Issues Series*, Vol. 5, No. 9, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1983, p. 1.

#### **November 1974**

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

— Mohammad El-Sayed Selim, "Egypt and the Middle Eastern Nuclear Issue," *Strategic Analysis*, January 1996, p. 1385-86.

#### **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.]

— "Timeline: Egypt," BBC News, 3 March 2003, <http://news.bbc.co.uk>.

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## 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.

— Barbara M. Gregory, "Egypt's Nuclear Program Assessing Supplier-Based and Other Developmental Constraints," *Nonproliferation Review*, Fall 1995, p. 21.

## 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.]

— Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 57.

## 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.

— "Uranium Finds Expected to Increase Energy Sufficiency," *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*, 14 November 1990, in FBIS, JPRS-TND-91-003, 25 February 1991.

## September 1970

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

— "Timeline: Egypt," BBC News, 3 March 2003, <http://news.bbc.co.uk>.

[Back to Top](#)

## 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).

— "Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements: NPT, Egypt," UN Department for Disarmament Affairs, accessed on 23 April 2003, <http://disarmament.un.org>.

### 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.

— Mohammed Hassanein Heykal, *Al Ahrām*, Editorial, 23 November 1973, as cited in Raymond H. Anderson, "Top Cairo Editor Urges Nuclear Arms for Arabs," *New York Times*, 23 November 1973.

### 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.

— "Timeline: Egypt," BBC News, 3 March 2003, <http://news.bbc.co.uk>.

#### **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.

— Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 56.

#### **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.

— Mohammad El-Sayed Selim, "Egypt and the Middle Eastern Nuclear Issue," *Strategic Analysis*, January 1996, p. 1384.

#### **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.

— Hedrick Smith, "Soviet Said to Offer Cairo Atom Defense," *New York Times*, 3 February 1966.

#### **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.]

— Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 55.

#### **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 Quaron, 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.

— Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 55.

#### **1962**

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

— Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 54.

#### **1961**

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

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— Robert Stephens, *Nasser, A Political Biography* (Allen Lane, London, 1971), pp. 316-317, as cited in Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 48.

### **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.

— "ETRR-1," Nuclear Research Reactors in the World, IAEA, 6 March 2001, [www.iaea.org](http://www.iaea.org); *The Risk Report*, Vol. 6, No. 5 (September-October 2000).

### **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).

— "Egypt," *Uranium 1999: Resources, Production and Demand* (OECD NEA, 2000).

[Back to Top](#)

## **1950s**

### **1 March 1958**

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

— "ETRR-1," Nuclear Research Reactors in the World, IAEA, 6 March 2001, [www.iaea.org](http://www.iaea.org).

### **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.

— Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 51.

### **1957**

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

— Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 51; "Nuclear Research Center," Federation of American Scientists, 11 June 2000, [www.fas.org](http://www.fas.org).

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#### **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](http://www.iaea.or.at).

#### **June 1956**

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

— Mohammad El-Sayed Selim, "Egypt and the Middle Eastern Nuclear Issue," *Strategic Analysis*, January 1996, p. 1382.

#### **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.

— Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 50.

#### **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.]

— "IAEA at 40: The Fifties," [www.iaea.or.at](http://www.iaea.or.at); Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 50.

#### **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.

— Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 49.

#### **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.

— "Consultative Council Discusses Nuclear Energy," Middle East News Agency, 28 June 1987.

#### **1954**

Gamal Abdul Nassar becomes Egypt's prime minister.

— "Timeline: Egypt," BBC News, 3 March 2003, <http://news.bbc.co.uk>.

#### **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,

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agriculture, engineering, and chemistry.

— Shyam Bhatia, *Nuclear Rivals in the Middle East* (New York: Routledge, 1988), p. 49.

### **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.

— "Timeline: Egypt," BBC News, 3 March 2003, <http://news.bbc.co.uk>.

[Back to Top](#)

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