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ASAMBLEA GENERAL

Cuadragésimo segundo período de sesiones
Temas 33, 36, 47 y 51 de la lista
preliminar*

**POLITICA DE APARTHEID DEL GOBIERNO
DE SUDAFRICA**

CUESTION DE NAMIBIA

**APLICACION DE LAS RESOLUCIONES DE
LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

**NECESIDAD URGENTE DE UN TRATADO
DE PROHIBICION COMPLETA DE LOS
ENSAYOS NUCLEARES**

CONSEJO DE SEGURIDAD

Cuadragésimo segundo año

**Carta de fecha 15 de julio de 1987 dirigida al Secretario General por
el Representante Permanente del Iraq ante las Naciones Unidas**

Siguiendo instrucciones de mi Gobierno, tengo el honor de remitirle adjunto el texto de un artículo publicado en el semanario británico The Observer, en la edición del domingo 17 de mayo de 1987, bajo el título "Namibia Uranium may fuel Iran's A-bomb" ("El uranio de Namibia puede servir de combustible para la bomba atómica del Irán"). Dicho artículo corrobora el hecho de que el régimen del Irán continúa comprando uranio procedente de la mina de Rössing, en el territorio namibiano ocupado desde hace tiempo por el régimen racista de Sudáfrica. El Gobierno del Irán posee el 10% de las acciones de dicha mina.

Agradeceré tenga a bien hacer distribuir la presente carta y su anexo como documento de la Asamblea General en relación con los temas 33, 36, 47 y 51 de la lista preliminar, y como documento del Consejo de Seguridad.

(Firmado) Ismat KITTANI
Representante Permanente

* A/42/50.

ANEXO

Artículo aparecido en la edición del 17 de mayo de 1987
de The Observer

Namibia uranium may fuel Iran's A-bomb

by MARTIN BAILEY
and SHYAM SHATIA

IRAN is secretly buying uranium from a British-operated mine in Namibia, despite Ayatollah Khomeini's strong opposition to South African occupation of the territory.

The Iranian Government also has a shareholding in the mine at Rossing, which is operated by London-based Rio Tinto-Zinc.

Nuclear experts are surprised that Iran has continued to buy uranium from Rossing for the past eight years, while the Shah's ambitious power programme has not come to

fruition. Some observers fear that Khomeini's Government may be trying to develop an atomic bomb.

Our inquiries have revealed that two Iranian officials, Ghafor Moheeni and Rahbari Kharazi, sit on the board of Rossing Uranium. The London office of RTZ, which is responsible for the mine's operation, would not comment on the role of the two men.

Iran's 10 per cent stake in Rossing gives the country about 1,000 tonnes of uranium a year. In 1979 a South African company offered to buy out the Iranian stake but a revolutionary committee, reporting to Khomeini, rejected the offer. Since then, Iran has had access to up to 8,000 tonnes of uranium yellowcake, worth about £200 million.

British contract

Iranian purchases are handled by RTZ Mineral Services, a London-based company which is registered in the Swiss town of Zug. Because of political sensitivity, the contract has been treated as highly secret.

The UN Council for Namibia has banned the import of Namibian natural resources and

called for the cancellation of contracts for Rossing uranium. Britain's Central Electricity Generating Board had a controversial contract for Rossing uranium until 1984, but this was not renewed because of both falling demand and the political sensitivity of importing from Namibia.

Although Iran has signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Khomeini's Government is worried by Iraq, its main protagonist in the Middle East.

The Iraqis had an advanced programme of nuclear research at Tawaithat, near Baghdad, which was bombed by the Israelis in 1981.

South African and Namibian uranium is covered by fewer restrictions than supplies from other countries, and is easier to divert for military purposes.

If Khomeini pursues the development of nuclear weapons, he may find uranium a useful commodity to exchange or sell for technology from other aspiring nuclear powers.