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This Notice is designed to provide intelligence in support of future decisions with respect to security policy or posture.

ARGENTINA

DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

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In addition, a member of the Chamber of Deputies has reportedly submitted a bill calling for the government to develop an atomic bomb. When queried on the subject, however, a Defense Ministry spokesman refused to make any comments.

(C/NTD) According to proclaimed Argentine policy, the application of nuclear energy is to be restricted to peaceful uses. It need not necessarily preclude, however, development of a nuclear explosives capability should Buenos Aires declare such an undertaking to be part of a peaceful program. The high priority attached to achieving a self-sufficient nuclear fuel cycle probably would permit an initial nuclear detonation by about 1980. Meanwhile, the government has failed to ratify the Latin American Nuclear Free-Zone Treaty and has adamantly opposed accedence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. (CDD-51-Dec-05)

SOURCES: 4 Apr 75 (C/NPD); Emb Buenos Aires 2313 3 Apr 75 (C)

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