

June 2, 1976

**Reply, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, 'Sale of
Two Nuclear Plants to South Africa'**

Citation:

"Reply, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, 'Sale of Two Nuclear Plants to South Africa'", June 2, 1976, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Ford Presidential Library, White House Central Files, Subject File, CO 135, South Africa, 3.1.76-7.31.76, Box 46. Obtained and contributed by Anna-Mart van Wyk, Monash South Africa.
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Summary:

French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jean Sauvagnargues, responds to an inquiry from the National Assembly regarding France's sale of two pressurized-water reactors to South Africa.

Credits:

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

EXECUTIVE
Original Scan
C050
AT2
C1153
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11020

JUN 10 1976

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE
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76/72

SALE OF TWO NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS TO SOUTH AFRICA

REPLY BY JEAN SAUVAGNARGUES

FRENCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

TO A QUESTION IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 2, 1976



...The Alstom-Framatome contract provides for delivery of two pressurized-water reactors using slightly enriched uranium and producing highly irradiated fuel which is not suitable for the production of plutonium of military quality. Therefore the delivery of two industrial reactors has no real effect on the production of nuclear arms. The execution of the contract is contingent on the conclusion of an agreement between France and South Africa regarding controls on the functioning of the reactors and the processing of fuel, and on the conclusion of a tripartite agreement between France, South Africa and the International Atomic Energy Agency. So France remains strictly faithful to the policy defined by the President of the French Republic, which is to avoid the spread of nuclear arms, particularly in Africa, where we believe that all military confrontation must be completely ruled out.

Moreover, I have received a telegram in which Mr. Vorster confirms that he is interested only in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. In any case South Africa has military capacities of its own and this eliminates the need for it to turn to industrial nuclear power plants. But the French government would strongly disapprove of the production of nuclear arms in South Africa.

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