

July 7, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: OIP Staff

FROM: Janice Dunn Lee, Director
Office of International Programs

SUBJECT: TASKING ASSIGNMENTS FOR BRIEFING MATERIAL
PREPARATION FOR CHAIRMAN MESERVE'S ATTENDANCE
AT THE 44th IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE; SEPTEMBER 18 -
22, 2000

The 44th IAEA General Conference is scheduled for September 18 - 22, 2000. We must begin preparing the necessary briefing material for Chairman Meserve's bilateral meetings and proposed remarks for each planned signing ceremony. We must also help arrange the side trips the Chairman may take before or after the GC, including the briefing books. The Chairman is currently planning such trips to Slovakia and Ukraine. A first draft of briefing materials and any signing ceremony remarks are due to me by August 7, 2000. The revised, final products are due to Jodi Lieberman in hardcopy and on diskette by Friday, August 18, 2000.

The focus of the briefing material for the bilateral meetings and side trips should be on issues likely to be raised and desired outcomes, rather than background on the country's nuclear program. A sample format is attached. For bilateral meetings/signings, please review the attached list of proposed bilaterals and other side meetings, which I have denoted with the following nomenclature: A = Definite Bilateral and B = Maybe Bilateral, and provide any feedback to Jodi or me no later than Friday, July 21.

Please note that, regardless of whether or not a bilateral will be held, background, talking points and other relevant information must be prepared for the countries and topical issues listed in the attachments. You are also requested to provide a total of no more than two pages of backup reference material for each country and topical issue listed. Country background information should be provided using the format at Attachment 3 and should include information on current issues of interest for that country and desired outcomes. Talking points should be noted on a separate page.

Attachments: 1. Bilateral Countries and Topical Issues
2. Information for the Margins
3. Sample Background Format

BILATERAL MEETINGS AND TOPICAL ISSUES

<u>Country</u>	<u>Name</u>
(B) Argentina	C. Breskovic
(A) Armenia	J. Ramsey
(B) Brazil	C. Breskovic
(B) Bulgaria	D.M. Perez
(A) Canada	K. Burke
(A) Czech Republic	D.M. Perez
(A) China	K. Burke
(A) France	H. Faulkner
(A) Germany	H. Faulkner
(C) Ghana	C. Breskovic
(B) Hungary	D.M. Perez
(B) Indonesia	D. Chaney
(A) Japan	K. Burke
(A) Republic of Korea	D. Chaney
(B) Kazakhstan	J. Ramsey
(A) Lithuania	D.M. Perez
(A) Russian Federation	J. Ramsey/G. Fowler (lead)
(A) Slovak Republic	D.M. Perez
(A) Slovenia	D.M. Perez
(A) Spain	D.M. Perez
(A) South Africa	H. Faulkner
(A) Ukraine	J. Ramsey/G. Fowler (lead)
(B) United Kingdom	J. Lieberman
(A) Vietnam	J. Lieberman
(B) Belgium	H. Faulkner

<u>Topical Subjects</u>	<u>Name</u>
IAEA/Safeguards Issues/ SSS Implementation/Trilateral Update	C. Breskovic/ To be obtained from NMSS
IAEA/Technical Cooperation Issues/ Extrabudgetary Programs, FSU and Asia	J. Lieberman/J. Ramsey
EBRD Nuclear Safety Account Projects	J. Ramsey
Convention on Nuclear Safety	B.Doroschuk
Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel & on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management	J. Lieberman
Liability/ Revised Vienna and Supplemental Funding Conventions	To be obtained from OGC

Safety of Radioactive Sources (“Orphan Sources”)

J. Lieberman

International Nuclear
Regulators Association

K. Henderson

OECD Nuclear Energy Agency

B. Doroschuk

Cooperative Research
Initiatives

H. Faulkner/To be obtained from RES

INFORMATION FOR THE MARGINS

<u>Country</u>	<u>Name</u>
Australia	B. Wright
Finland	H. Faulkner
Iran	J. Ramsey/C. Breskovic
India	S. Schuyler-Hayes
Israel	C. Breskovic
Italy	H. Faulkner
Kazakstan	J. Ramsey/J. Lieberman
Mexico	D. M. Perez
North Korea	D. Chaney
Pakistan	S. Schuyler-Hayes
Romania	D.M. Perez
Sweden	H. Faulkner
Thailand	D. Chaney
Turkey	C. Breskovic

Argentina

Background Information 6/2000

Nuclear Power

Argentina produces about 20.6 GW of electricity of which about 48% are derived from hydroelectric plants, about 42% from thermal plants and about 10% from nuclear plants. The German-supplied 335MWe Atucha I (Siemens) and the Canadian-supplied 600-MWe Embalse (AECL) plants, both PHWRs, are operational. Another German-supplied plant, Atucha II, 692 MWe (KWU) is under construction (88% complete). No other plants are planned.

Nuclear Fuel Cycle

Argentina has an extensive nuclear fuel cycle and has commercial scale conversion, fuel fabrication and heavy water production facilities. A pilot scale, gaseous diffusion uranium enrichment facility at Pilcaniyeu is in stand by mode. Intermediate, at-reactor (AR) and away-from-reactor (AFR) storage of spent fuel is also being developed.

Waste Management Strategy

Options for vitrification of high-level waste and disposal of high-level waste glass canisters in granite host-rock repository are being considered. Low-level waste and short-lived intermediate-level waste are disposed of in near-surface engineered facilities. No decision has been made on the disposal of long-lived intermediate-level waste. The exploration of a waste depository in the remote province of Patagonia was met with considerable protest by national environmental groups.

Research and Development

Invap is Argentina's premier, government-owned, nuclear development enterprise. Invap manufactures and exports cobalt therapy machines, and has sold nuclear research reactors to Peru and Egypt and most recently has won a bid to supply a research reactor to Australia.

In February 2000 Argentina offered to assist Zimbabwe in developing a nuclear power program to alleviate Zimbabwe's chronic power shortages. This offer was made as a follow-up to a September 1999 visit by Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe to Argentina and Invap. The status of possible negotiations between the two countries on this subject is unknown.

Nuclear Regulatory Structure

The Comisión Nacional de Energía Atómica (CNEA) was created by decree in 1950 and its main original function was to control official and private atomic research. Through subsequent decrees its authority was expanded to include all aspects of nuclear regulation and peaceful uses of atomic energy. In August 1994 the CNEA was divided into three independent organizations: the CNEA, Nucleoeléctrica Argentina S.A., and Ente Nacional Regulador Nuclear (ENREN). The CNEA and ENREN remained government agencies and NASA is a private enterprise. Their responsibilities and functions were as follows:

CNEA: conducts research and development (mostly at INVAP), and is responsible for fuel cycle, waste disposal, radioisotopes, radiation sources, and training.

NASA: operates the nuclear power plants.

ENREN: independent regulatory authority responsible for radiological and nuclear safety, safeguards and physical protection.

The "National Law of Nuclear Activity", passed in 1997, converted ENREN into a new regulatory body, the Autoridad Regulatoria Nuclear (ARN), and expanded its licensing, enforcement and regulatory powers. ARN reports directly to the Argentine President and Executive Branch. ARN has adopted performance-based nuclear safety regulations and has resident inspectors at all nuclear reactor sites. ARN also provides technical and regulatory to the Argentine National Commission for the Control of Sensitive and War Material Exports.

Non-Proliferation/International Safeguards

Argentina ratified the Treaty of Tlatelolco in 1993 and became a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995, placing all of its nuclear facilities under full-scope safeguards under a quadripartite agreement between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Argentina, Brazil and the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC). ABACC was created in 1991 through a bilateral agreement between Brazil and Argentina for the purpose of implementing full-scope IAEA safeguards under the quadripartite agreement. IAEA reports to date do not indicate any safeguards implementation problems in Argentina.

Privatization

In February 2000 the Argentine government cancelled the planned privatization of the power plants, admitting that the negative financial situation of the plants was driving investors away.

Human Resources

CNEA and ARN have suffered personnel losses due to budget cuts, brain drain, and aging of the professional work force which could impact overall effectiveness. Both organizations are working on solutions to this problem which affects the nuclear industry and regulatory bodies world-wide.

Relations with the NRC

Bilateral Arrangements and Agreements

The original NRC/Argentine MOU, originally signed in 1990, expired in 1995 and was replaced in 1996 by a bilateral cooperation arrangement between the NRC and ENREN, the precursor of ARN. The arrangement is due for renewal in September 2001.

The NRC has signed implementing agreements with ARN in the areas of severe accident research (CSARP), thermal-hydraulic code application and maintenance (CAMP), and probabilistic risk assessment (COOPRA). These agreements will be in force through October 2002. ARN has contributed \$ 420,000 towards its participation in these programs.

Commission Visits

Commissioner Rogers in November 1990.

Chairman Selin in November 1992.
Commissioner Diaz in June 1997.

Foreign Assignees

There have been no requests by the Argentine government to place assignees with the NRC.

NRC Licensed Exports

Since 1992 the NRC licensed the export of the following items to Argentina: reactor and fuel components for the Embalse and Atucha reactors, molybdenum boats for the fuel fabrication plant, and a process control system for the Arroyito heavy water plant.

ARN Principals

President: Antonio OLIVEIRA

Vice President: Eduardo D'AMATO

Directorate Members:

Norberto Rubén CIALLELLA
Enrique MARIANO
Sergio SOLMESKY

Talking Points - COUNTRY

(5-7 issue and outcome-oriented for “A” and “B” countries

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