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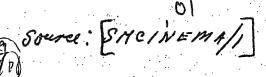
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NUCLEAR RESEARCH IN CUBA-

- 1. The first national meeting of the National Research Institute (IMIN) was held in August 1374 and, according to a dayana radio broadcast monitored by the BBC on 23 Sctober, some 105 papers related to the meaceful use of the atom were precented. One of these papers had dealt with "the identification of iron and manganese in minerals by the age of neutrons" and another with research in Mehanging the physical properties of bagasse to give it solidity and durability; in order to achieve this the bagasse was treated with nuclear radiation". The newspaper, Juventud Rebelde, reported on 22 August that a paper was presented at the same meeting on the subject of thermonuclear powerplants by Mario FLEITES, mead of the Department of Future bevelopment of the Emparsa Concolidate de la Flectricidad. FLEITES estimated 1980 as the earliest possible date for work to begin on such a plant.
- 2. The 29 October broadcast, made by Hamuel Juan Sahoza, claimed that research into the use of nuclear energy for economic growth during the Previous five years was producing the necessary technical and scientific knowledge; Cuban leaders expected to have nuclear plants generating electricity in Juba in the near future. Here than 40 institutes, including ININ, were involved in the work.
- in Granza of 10 December quoting the Aussian Vice-Minister of Energy and Blostrification, Nikolai P MATTSEU, as aunomains the project study for an "atomelectric" plant in Caba. The plant would have two reactors of 400 or 500 segments. (The proposal for such a study was presumably discussed by the aussian energy delegation, led by the Minister of Energy and electrification, Piotr S NEFOROZENI, which visited Cuba in the second week of Ostober 1974; it would also seen probable that the project was included in the agenda dealt with in the first week of December by the Fifth Caban/Soviet meeting of the Commission for Feonomic and Scientific/Technical collaboration which was led on the Aussian side by Vladimir N NOVIKOV, Vice-Freedent of the Council of Kinisters).
- As I have already reported, a US professor of nuclear physics, Jerome STEFFENS, is in Cuba at present, lecturing at #avana University. There may, of course, be no connection between STEFFENS and the nuclear research already taking place in Suba for thereonaclear power plants. However, when I not STEFFENS briefly on 7 december (having already met his wife some three days earlier) he said be would like to meet again at my office, or socially, as there were several matters concerning his work in Suba which we (the mission) might find of interest. Micole SZULC

/later

later told me that she had given STEFFENS my name und office telephone number as he had asked for them; she added rather mystericusly that whatever it was he wished to discuss was a matter between the two of us, and she had no wish to be involved (this was anyway stating the obvious as she was leaving two days later). I hope to see STEFFENS again and will report anything of interest.

5. Since drafting the above I have spoken to Dorothy STLFIELS on their hotel telephone on 17 December. She said that they were leaving for Barbados on 18 December and so were unable to accept the invitation I had given them. She also remarked that the matter her husband had wished to discuss had lost its urgency: it could wait until their next visit in 1975.