

Russia Could Build Nuclear Power Plant in North Korea in 6-7 Years – Source

Text of report by Russian news agency ITAR-TASS

Moscow, 1 August: Russian nuclear specialists could "build a nuclear power station in North Korea in six to seven years and partially resolve the country's energy problem", ITAR-TASS was told by Rosatom [Federal Agency for Atomic Energy] today. The agency was also told that "this is quite possible if the construction of such a nuclear power plant is commercially beneficial to our country and if North Korea returns to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty".

The Rosatom source said that "during the 1970-80s Soviet specialists carried out preparatory work on selecting a site for the construction of a nuclear power plant in North Korea with a VVER- 1000 reactor. But, he added, "this work was subsequently discontinued and was not resumed, Rosatom is not holding any talks with North Korean nuclear specialists".

The head of Rosatom, Aleksandr Rumyantsev, said earlier that "there have been no contacts between Russian and North Korean nuclear specialists for over 15 years". Rosatom "does not possess" any information on the state of North Korea's nuclear energy programme. He added, however, that "in our opinion the level of North Korean nuclear specialists' training is quite sufficient for them to take part in the construction of a nuclear power station and to operate it safely".