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HIGHLY-ENRICHED NUCLEAR FUEL FROM LIBYA TAKEN BACK TO RUSSIA

Text of report by Russian news agency ITAR-TASS

Moscow, 26 July: Highly-enriched nuclear fuel has been taken from Libya to Russia, Rosatom [Russian Federal Agency for Atomic Energy] press secretary Sergey Novikov told ITAR-TASS today. "On 25 July, 3 kg of fresh (nonirradiated) highly-enriched fuel from the Tajoura research reactor in Libya was taken to Russia," he said.

"Altogether, 188 kg of highly-enriched uranium of Russian origin has been returned to Russia in the framework of the Russian-US intergovernmental agreement from foreign research reactors built under Soviet projects," the Rosatom spokesman said.

Nuclear fuel from Libya will shortly arrive at the Luch research and production association, where it will be processed into nuclear materials of low enrichment and sent for use in the production of fuel elements for power reactors at nuclear power stations.

"This delivery of fuel from Libya is a consistent step in the implementation of the task set by the presidents of Russia and the USA in the area of conversion of research reactors in third countries," Novikov stressed.

Earlier, Rosatom in conjunction with the US Energy Department took 17 kg of highly-enriched uranium from Libya.

The Tajoura reactor is expected to be switched to new low-enriched fuel in the next few months," Novikov said.

Source: ITAR-TASS news agency, Moscow, in Russian 1251 gmt 26 Jul 06

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