1988

05042
PARIS INTX GA 5128354+
28354 RESLDN G
511584 REUTR CU

UU ISA LEN-ENG ICT FBA BAS VISM
:AM-CUBA-NUCLEAR
CASTRO SAYS NUCLEAR PLANT DELAYED TO ADD SAFETY FEATURES.
BY LIONEL MARTIN

HAVANA, JUNE 23 (REUTER) - CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO SAID WEDNESDAY THAT THE COMPLETION OF CUBA'S FIRST NUCLEAR ENERGY POWER PLANT NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN SOUTH-CENTRAL CUBA WILL BE DELAYED BECAUSE OF ADDITIONAL MEASURES THAT ARE BEING TAKEN TO ENHANCE ITS SAFETY, THE CUBAN NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY, AIN, REPORTED THURSDAY.

THE CUBAN LEADER, WHO SPOKE IN MATANZAS TO THE WEST OF HAVANA, SAID THAT +MANY MORE SAFETY FEATURES THAN HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY PLANNED+ ARE BEING INCORPORATED INTO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PLANT AS A DIRECT OUTGROWTH OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER IN THE SOVIET UNION.

CCASTRO SAID THAT THE ADDITION OF NEW SAFETY FEATURES WOULD ADD TWO YEARS TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PLANT, ACCORDING TO CUBAN OFFICIALS. THE FIRST REACTOR WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN OPERATION AT THE BEGINNING OF 1991.

DURING A VISIT TO CUBA LAST YEAR, THE HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, HANS BLIX, SAID THAT THE JURAGUA PLANT +USED THE MOST COMMON TECHNOLOGY VERY DIFFERENT FROM THAT USED AT CHERNOBYL.+

CASTRO ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT CUBA WAS PLANNING TO BUILD TWO MORE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, ONE IN EASTERN AND THE OTHER IN WESTERN CUBA +DUE TO THE HIGH COST OF PETROLEUM.+ CUBA IMPORTS VIRTUALLY ALL OF ITS PETROLEUM, AN ESTIMATED 11 TO 13 MILLION TONNES A YEAR, FROM THE SOVIET UNION. CUBAN OIL PRODUCTION IS ABOUT ONE MILLION TONNES A YEAR AND THE ISLAND HAS NO COAL OR LARGE RIVERS THAT COULD BE USED TO PRODUCE ELECTRICITY.
NNNNNNNN

1986

UU ISA LEN ENG ICT FBA BAS VISM
'AM-CUBA-NUCLEAR 2HAVANA

U.S. OFFICIALS AND CONGRESSMEN HAVE PERIODICALLY EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF THE JURAGUA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. IN JUNE 1986, IN REPLY TO A LETTER FROM U.S. CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL BILIRAKIS ABOUT THE PLANT'S SAFETY, CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF VRECIPROCAL VISITS BY U.S AND CUBAN NUCLEAR SAFETY EXPERTS TO INSTALLATIONS IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

EARLIER THIS MONTH, ACCORDING TO THE CUBAN MAGAZINE +BOHEMIA+, TWO CUBAN NUCLEAR ENERGY EXPERTS VISITED A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN NORTH CAROLINA AT THE INVIATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE DUKE POWER COMPANY. THE EXPERTS SAID IN AN INTERVIEW PRINTED IN THE MAGAZINE THAT THEY TOLD REGIONAL OFFICIALS OF THE U.S NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION IN ATLANT THAT THE U.S. HAD NO REASON TO FEAR THE JURAGUA PLANT BECAUSE STRICT MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN IN CONSTRUCTING AND EQUIPPING IT TO GUARANTEE NUCLEAR SAFETY.

A U.S. DIPLOMAT IN HAVANA TOLD REUTER THAT U.S. NUCLEAR EXPERTS WILL PAY A RECIPROCAL VISIT TO CUBA IN THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS TO INSPECT THE JURAGUA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AND TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH CUBAN NUCLEAR ENERGY OFFICIALS ABOUT SAFETY. THE HEAD OF CUBA'S NUCLEAR POWER ENERGY COMMMISSION IS FIDEL CASTRO DIAZ-BALART, A THIRTY NINE YEAR OLD NUCLEAR ENGINEER, WHO IS THE SON OF CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO.

DURING THEIR VISIT TO THE MCGUIRE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN NORTH CAROLINA, THE CUBAN EXPERTS WITNESSED A SIMULATED EMERGENCY AND WATCHED AS THE PLANT'S ENGINEERS HANDLED THE MOCK MAXIMUM LEVEL NUCLEAR ACCIDENT..

CUBAN OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT THE FOUR BUIDLINGS CONTAINING REACTORS AT THE JURAGUA PLANT WILL HAVE CONTAINMENT DOMES TO PREVENT THE ESCAPE OF RADIOACTIVITY INTO THE ATMOSPHERE IN CASE OF MISHAP. THE HAVE STATED THAT THE PLANT WILL HAVE MULTIPLE SAFETY BACKUP FEATURES AND THAT THERE WILL BE CONSTANT MONITORING OF THE PLANT AND THE SURROUNDING REGION TO DETECT INCREASES IN RADIOACTIVITY..

THE JURAGUA PLANT, CUBA'S SINGLE LARGEST DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, WILL COST APPROXIAMTELY 2.4 BILLION DOLLARS, ACCORDINE TO ONE CUBAN OFFICIAL.
==REUTER/LEM
NNNNNNM*
28354 RESLDN GRRR