

## Information Circular

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### Communication dated 28 September 2005 from the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the Agency

The Secretariat has received a letter dated 28 September 2005 from the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the Agency concerning the establishment of a reserve of nuclear fuel from materials previously declared excess to national security needs.

As requested in that letter, it is being circulated for the information of all Member States.



UNITED STATES MISSION  
TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

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September 28, 2005

Director General ElBaradei:

I would like to elaborate on the U.S. initiative announced by Secretary Bodman at the General Conference to establish a reserve of nuclear fuel from materials previously declared excess to national security needs. Specifically, the Secretary announced that the United States would commit up to 17 metric tons of highly enriched uranium (HEU) to support assurances of reliable nuclear fuel supplies for states that forego enrichment and reprocessing.

The establishment of this reserve is but one component of a broader effort to establish a mechanism to provide assurances of reliable access to nuclear fuel for states that forego enrichment and reprocessing. We envision a central role for the IAEA, based on the provision of the Statute authorizing the IAEA to act as an intermediary for the purposes of securing the supply of nuclear services and materials.

Drawing on a considerable body of prior work, including the report of the IAEA Director General's expert group on Multilateral Approaches to the Nuclear Fuel Cycle, we have proposed that supplier states and the IAEA establish a reliable mechanism to resolve problems should a disruption in supply arise. Material made available by the United States under the initiative just announced by Secretary Bodman would serve to back-up this proposed mechanism.

Details concerning this initiative are still being finalized, and the blend down of 17 metric tons of HEU to low enriched uranium is an extensive and time-consuming process. We anticipate that this fuel will become available in 2009.

My Government looks forward to working with you, the IAEA Secretariat, and Member States to reduce the risk posed by the proliferation of enrichment and reprocessing technology.

We request that you circulate this letter as an INF/CIRC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory J. Schulte".

Gregory J. Schulte  
Ambassador