INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 09, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. PAUL LEVENTHAL

SUBJECT: FORWARDS A COPY OF HIS QUOTE ON IRAQ'S NUCLEAR CAPACITY IN A NEWS ARTICLE

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<th>ACTION CODE</th>
<th>DATE YY/MM/DD</th>
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REFERRAL NOTE: 

COMMENTS: 

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: ________

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*ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION *OUTGOING
* APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED *CORRESPONDENCE:
*C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *TYPE RESP=INITIALS
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLETED *OF SIGNER
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED *CODE = A
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* *COMPLETED = DATE OF
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * *OUTGOING
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE * * *
*X-INTERIM REPLY * * *

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LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.
8/7/91

Dear John,

Please note quote on jump page of this Knight Ridder story.

Best wishes,

P.S. Smith

Strategies for stopping the spread and reversing the growth of nuclear arms.
Brazil's homemade 'clunkers' delay nation's entrance into computer age

By SAM DILLON
Herald Staff Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazilian President Fernando Collor, staring at the video display of a made-in-Brazil computer, said it all as he waited for a response from the hesitant machine:

"Clunkers!" he cried in exasperation. "You have to wait 10 minutes for an answer? These computers are just clunkers!"

Seventeen years after Brazil banned foreign-made computers in an effort to create a homegrown electronics industry, Brazilians have grown impatient with a protectionist policy that has kept foreign-made computers out of the hands of consumers and retarded the country's technological development.

The policy has proved a boon to Miami computer dealers, who advertise in Brazilian newspapers and sell thousands of computers a year to Brazilian tourists, who pay high import taxes at home to bring them in, or to professional smugglers, who don't bother to pay the taxes, but find an eager market waiting back home.

Collor, whose exclamation last fall at a computer demonstration at the presidential palace merely dramatized the popular mood, has promised sweeping change. And Jose Goldemberg, Collor's secretary of science and technology, pledged in an interview that a law recently voted in Congress will open Brazil's market to foreign competition, resulting in cheaper, better computers and improved industrial technology.

Yet critics say that Collor's attempt to yank Brazil into the computer age has so far been more image than substance.

The law, which must still be voted on by the Senate, falls short of ending the country's technological isolation, and the congressional battle that produced it demonstrated anew that Brazil's economic nationalists have by no means given up the fight.

The attempt to liberalize the com-

associated Press

AT RAMBOUILLET: President Bush, French President Francois Mitterrand stroll in park Sunday.

U.S. officials now admit tracking Iraqi material may be impossible

By OWEN ULLMANN and MARK THOMPSON
Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Barely four months ago, the Bush administration was crowing that it had destroyed Iraq's capacity to build a nuclear bomb. "I'm confident in saying it'll be a long time before Saddam Hussein has nuclear capability," Defense Secretary Dick Cheney proclaimed on March 19.

Now, an embarrassed administration is being forced to admit it was wrong.

Not only did Iraq's capability to make an atomic weapon survive intensive aerial bombardment during the Persian Gulf War, but new evidence indicates Iraq has been conducting a secret nuclear program that poses an even greater threat today than before the war.

Recent disclosures from the Iraqi government, an Iraqi defector, international inspectors and U.S. intelligence suggest Iraq may be only months away from making two to four crude bombs, each with the -
Nuclear threat from Iraq may be hard to eliminate

POLICY, FROM 1A
force of 20 thousand tons of TNT — about the same as the bomb dropped on Nagasaki in World War II.

"We are learning now from a variety of intelligence sources things we didn’t know when we did the target planning for the war about elements of their nuclear capability," Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said last week.

Most troubling aspect

The most troubling aspect about the latest discoveries for the Bush administration is that the U.S. military no longer is boasting about being able to destroy Iraq’s weapons program in another bombing raid.

To the contrary, U.S. officials concede that it would be exceedingly difficult — perhaps impossible — to track down nuclear materials and equipment that Iraq may have buried.

"Our best hope is that they keep everything buried so we can’t do anything with it," said a White House official, who did not want to be identified. "We’re watching them like a hawk. If they move it, they lose it." It’s just like finding a needle in a haystack," said one Pentagon official.

"Finding Scuds was a piece of cake compared to this," he added, referring to the frantic wartime search to hunt down and destroy Iraq’s crude ballistic missiles.

Plans for attack

The difficulty of the task has not stopped Bush from ordering the Pentagon to prepare plans for another possible attack. But many of the targets military officials say they have selected include non-nuclear military installations, such as command and control centers, whose destruction would not directly affect nuclear weapons development.

As a result, the administration is hoping that the combined pressures exerted by the presence of U.N. inspectors in Iraq, continuation of an international trade embargo and the threat of resuming the war will persuade Hussein to disclose the full extent of his nuclear program.

Under the cease-fire accord Iraq accepted in April, all of Iraq’s nuclear weapons capability and other weapons of mass destruction must be eliminated.

Nuclear capability eliminated?

On Jan. 26, 10 days after the war began, the Pentagon claimed it had eliminated Iraq’s capability to produce nuclear weapons.

This assessment was based on the destruction of two Iraqi nuclear research reactors and support facilities. The reactors had been powered by 88 pounds of highly enriched, weapons-grade uranium. Iraq had obtained legally from France and the Soviet Union.

Although the uranium was being used under safeguards established by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Bush administration had feared before the war that its officials might seize the uranium from the reactors and quickly convert it into one or two crude bombs that could be moved around on a flatbed truck or a boat.

President Bush voiced this concern during a visit with U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia last Thanksgiving, when he declared that experts who were predicting Iraq was still several years away from obtaining a bomb were underestimated the threat.

President criticized

Bush came under harsh criticism for the comments from scientists who charged that he was exaggerating the threat as a pretext for launching a war.

But Paul Leventhal, president of the Nuclear Control Institute, which seeks to limit the spread of nuclear weapons, contents, "Bush took a bum rap."

After the war, Iraq removed about two-thirds of the uranium and stored it under IAEA supervision; Iraq claims the remaining third was buried in the rubble of the reactors.

Even before the fighting began, however, the administration was picking up indications that Iraq might have a covert nuclear weapons program apart from the reactors, but the Pentagon did not take the hints seriously as it drew up its list of nuclear targets to be bombed last December.

Radioactive traces on clothes

The tip-off came from examinations of radioactive traces found on the clothing of hostages held at an Iraqi nuclear research center. The particles bore the unmistakable signature of a calutron, a World War II-era device used to enrich uranium.

About early May, the administration abruptly changed its mind about Iraq’s nuclear capability after an Iraqi nuclear scientist who defected to U.S. forces in northern Iraq disclosed that Iraqi officials were conducting a secret nuclear weapons program.

The defection said the Iraqis had created about 90 pounds of weapons-grade uranium that was enriched using calutrons at a secret facility that escaped allied bombing.

Suspensions confirmed

The defector’s story confirmed the earlier suspensions and was bolstered by subsequent information that prompted the administration to go public in late June with allegations that Iraq was still engaged in nuclear weapons research.

Iraq denied the charge, but would not let U.N. inspectors inspect a military base where the calutrons were believed stored.

Last week, after repeated threats of military strikes from the Bush administration, the Iraqis admitted they had 30 calutrons (of which only eight allegedly are still functional) and had produced one pound of slightly enriched uranium.

Iraq also admitted that it was developing two other, more advanced methods for enriching uranium, and allowing the U.N. inspectors to check their facilities.

But U.S. and U.N. officials believe Iraq continues to hide the full scope of its nuclear program.

ChANGING VIEW

The administration’s evolving view of the Iraqi nuclear threat:

- Jan. 26: "We believe that their capability to produce nuclear weapons has been 100 percent destroyed.
- Lt. Col. Mike Scott, Pentagon briefer, Saudi Arabia
- Feb. 13: "His capacity to produce nuclear weapons has been destroyed."
- Defense Secretary Dick Cheney
- Feb. 22: "We've eliminated his nuclear and biological production capabilities."
- Cheney
- March 19: "We have destroyed his capability to produce a nuclear weapon anytime in the near future, perhaps even a decade, without outside assistance. . . . I'm confident in saying it'll be a long time before Saddam Hussein has nuclear capability."
- Cheney
- June 4: Reporter: "Are you confident, still, that the coalition campaign to take out the nuclear facilities, research facilities, was total and complete?"
- Pentagon spokesman Bob Hall: "I don't think we've ever maintained that it was total or complete."
- June 11: Reporter: "Is it conceivable as far as the Pentagon sees it that a facility still exists? You said throughout the war that we completely wiped out all nuclear, biological and chemical facilities."
- Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams: "No, we never said that. That's not an accurate characterization of the way we described the extent of the damage."
- June 13: "We can't be in a position, never have been in a position, to say we know with absolute certainty that we got 100 percent of it, because you simply can't know what you don't know. We believe we dealt with everything that was on our target list."
- Williams
- July 9: "After the war, we learned of additional elements of Iraq's nuclear capability from a variety of intelligence sources. We are learning now from a variety of intelligence sources things we didn't know when we did the target planning for the war about elements of their nuclear capability."
- Williams

U.S. France warn Hussein