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# Weekly Surveyor

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: SEP 2001

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22 July 1974

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**WEEKLY SURVEYOR**

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22 July 1974

Directorate of Science and Technology

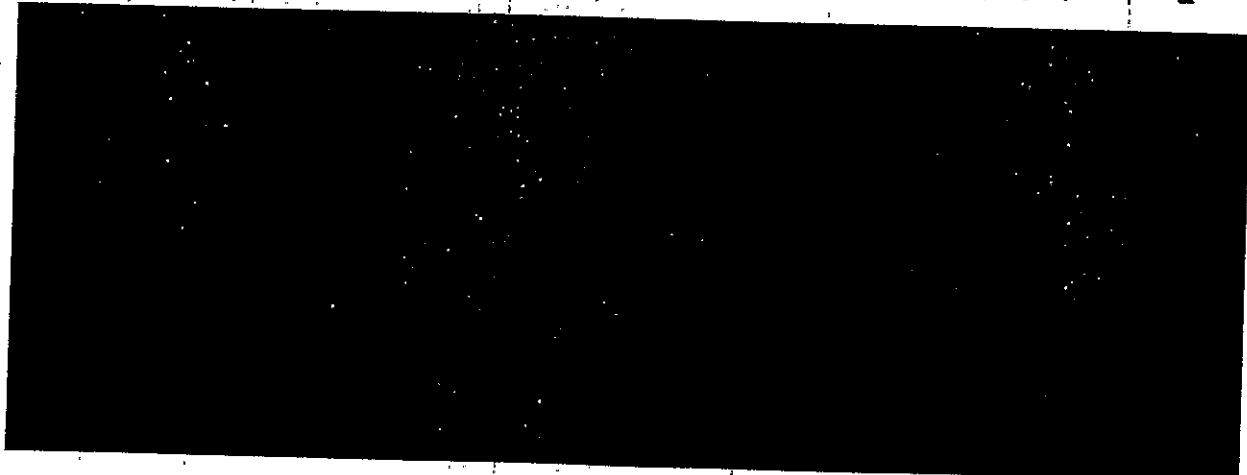
This publication is intended to furnish the intelligence community with a timely survey of significant current scientific intelligence. The items herein are based on selected incoming reports of all kinds received during the previous week. The comments represent the views of the Office of Scientific Intelligence and the Office of Weapons Intelligence and are coordinated to the extent possible in the time available within CIA but, being based on the material at hand, are subject to change on receipt of further information or analysis. We caution against action taken solely on the basis of the preliminary evaluations herein. Substantive questions concerning items in this publication may be addressed directly to the Surveyor Staff, OSI, CIA Headquarters, Langley. (Code 143, Extension 6516) Questions concerning distribution should be forwarded through appropriate departmental channels.

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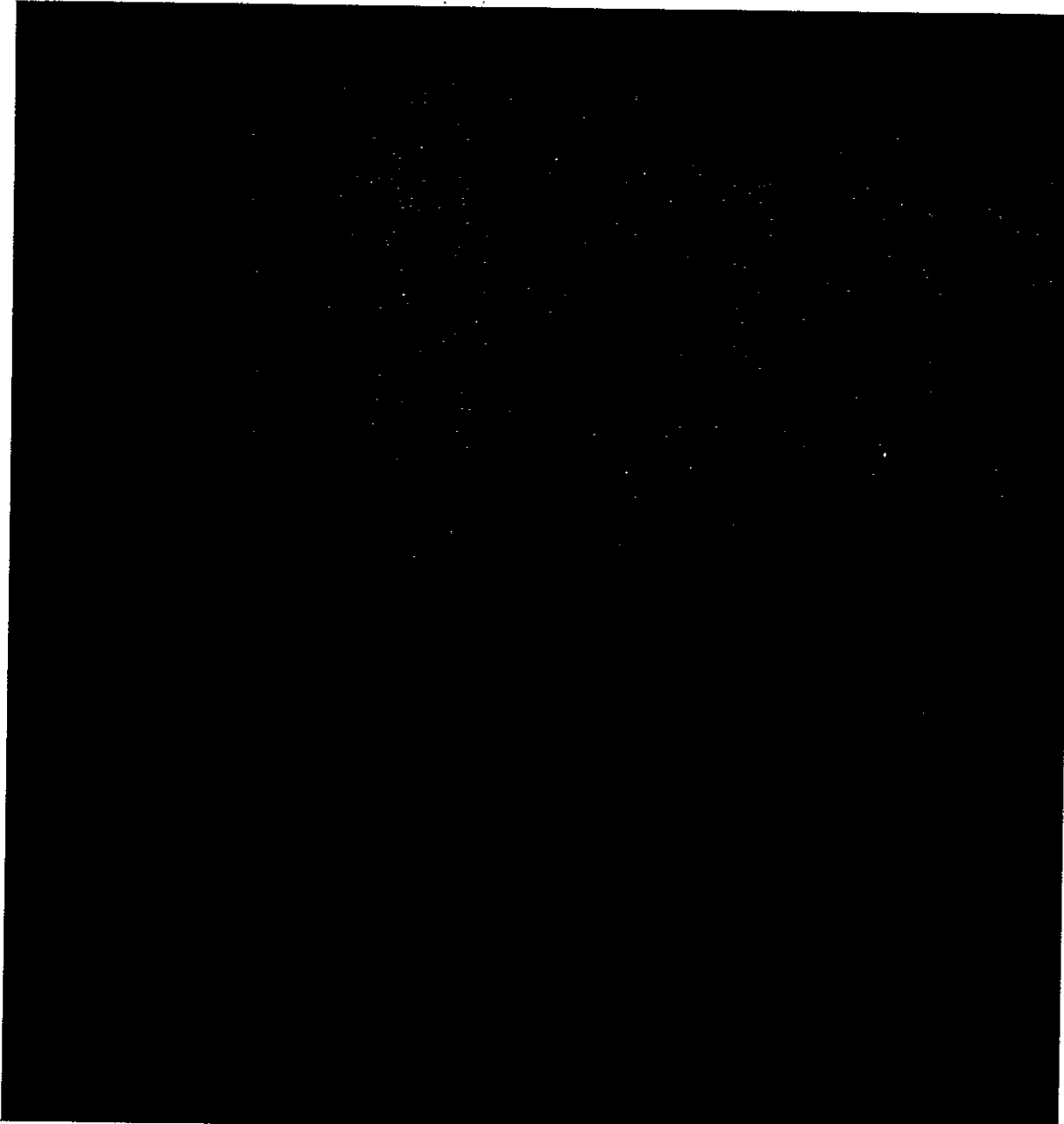
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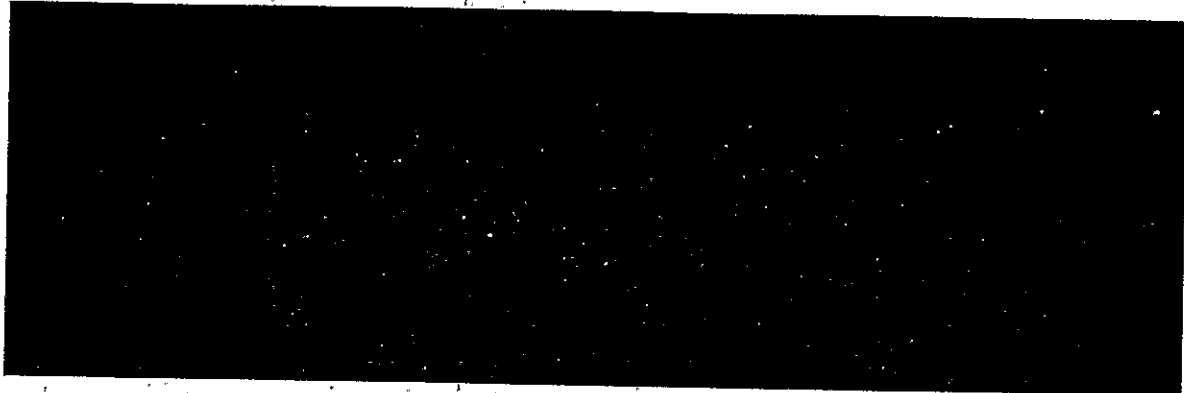
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## NUCLEAR ENERGY

South Africa Not Currently in Position to Produce Nuclear Weapons: On 10 July 1974, Dr. Louw Alberts, Vice President of the South African Atomic Energy Board announced that South Africa now has the capability to construct an atomic bomb. Alberts did not deny the possibility that South Africa has or contemplates a bomb development program, but confined himself to saying that it is South African policy to use nuclear knowledge for peaceful purposes. [REDACTED]

Comment: South Africa is not currently in a position to produce nuclear weapons. The only reactor it now possesses is a research reactor which is under IAEA safeguards. As yet, South Africa has no means of producing enriched uranium. Their pilot plant is expected to become operational sometime in 1974. It is designed to produce only a low enriched product, not suitable for weapons production. Changes in the process, however, probably could be made which would permit the production of weapons grade enriched uranium should they decide to go into a weapons program. In such a case a crude fission device could be produced within this decade. So far however, South Africa lacks all the other facilities necessary for nuclear weapons manufacture, and it would take several years for their construction after a decision is made to go into a nuclear program. [REDACTED]

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