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FROM : Amconsul MADRAS per L.V. NOSENZO DATE: April 21, 1969  
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SUBJECT : Atomic Power Project at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.  
8123179 840635

REF : CERP D; New Delhi A-910, March 29, 1968; and Madras A-175, May 22, 1968.

Construction of the first atomic powerhouses in South India is continuing at a satisfactory pace at Kalpakkam, 40 miles south of Madras. Officers from the Congen and the Embassy again visited the site on April 11, 1969.

The project covers an area of about 2500 acres. The essential element of the plan is a 200 MW reactor. Foundation work on this structure is almost complete. According to the construction engineer, another similar building is to be constructed to the south of the existing one to house a second 200 MW reactor. This expansion program has not yet, he explained, been fully sanctioned but preliminary construction work is being carried out. There will be a common service building and a common generator building erected between the two reactor structures. A site for the proposed 10 to 15 MW experimental "fast" reactor has been selected on the northern side of the area near a bridge being built over a backwater channel. The guide also stated that instruments for meteorological studies have been received.

Comment: About 2000 workers are now engaged in various construction activities, most of them erecting housing colonies. Orders for turbines have been placed with the Heavy Electricals Ltd., Bhopal and for generators with Bharat Heavy Electircals, Hardwar. The Kalpakkam plant is now expected to be operational by 1973 or 1974.

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