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PAGE 001 -TOT: 200723Z APR 84

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FROM: DDI/O

CONTENTS

1. NORTH KOREA: NUCLEAR REACTOR UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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//NORTH KOREA IS CONSTRUCTING A NUCLEAR REACTOR

A NUCLEAR REACTOR AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS A SMALL RESEARCH REACTOR.

SECRET





PAGE 002 TOT: 200723Z APR 84

TOWER HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED. 7/1

A COOLING

THE REACTOR PROBABLY

WILL BE GRAPHITE-MODERATED AND USE NATURAL URANIUM FOR FUEL.

THE NORTH

KOREANS WILL REQUIRE AT LEAST THREE MORE YEARS TO COMPLETE THE REACTOR.//

ALTHOUGH THE PROCEDURES ARE WITHIN NORTH KOREA'S SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITIES, PYYONGYANG WOULD NEED TO DEVELOP ADVANCED ENGINEERING TECHNIQUES TO MASTER THE REMOTE CONTROL OPERATIONS THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR HANDLING HIGHLY RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS.//

//THE NORTH KOREANS PROBABLY ARE TECHNICALLY CAPABLE OF BUILDING THE REACTOR WITHOUT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. NORTH KOREA HAS NOT SIGNED THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY; AND IT IS UNLIKELY TO PUT THE REACTOR UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS.

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