

Board of Governors

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(GOV/2012/34)

Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement in the Syrian Arab Republic

Report by the Director General

1. On 24 May 2011, the Director General submitted a report to the Board of Governors on the implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement in the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) (GOV/2011/30). This report covers relevant developments since that date.

A. Background

2. On 2 June 2008, the Director General informed the Board of Governors that the Agency had been provided with information alleging that an installation at the Dair Alzour site in Syria, destroyed by Israel in September 2007, had been a nuclear reactor that was not yet operational and into which no nuclear material had been introduced. Information subsequently provided to the Agency included further allegations that the reactor was a gas cooled graphite moderated reactor, that it was not configured to produce electricity, that it had been built with the assistance of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and that there were three other locations in Syria that were functionally related to the Dair Alzour site. By the end of October 2007, large scale clearing and levelling operations had taken place at the site which had removed or obscured the remains of the destroyed building.¹ Syria has maintained, since May 2008, that the destroyed building was a non-nuclear military installation and that Syria had had no nuclear related cooperation with the DPRK.²

3. In June 2008, the Agency visited the Dair Alzour site and requested supporting documentation concerning the past and current use of the buildings at the Dair Alzour site and at three other locations allegedly functionally related to that site. Since that visit, Syria has not engaged substantively with the Agency on the nature of the Dair Alzour site or the three other locations.

¹ GOV/OR.1206, para. 26; GOV/2008/60, para. 16.

² GOV/2008/60, para. 1; GOV/2009/36, para. 15.

4. In his May 2011 report to the Board of Governors, the Director General provided the Agency's assessment that, based on all the information available to the Agency and its technical evaluation of that information, it was very likely that the building destroyed at the Dair Alzour site was a nuclear reactor which should have been declared to the Agency. Concerning the three other locations, the Agency was unable to provide an assessment concerning their nature or operational status.

B. Developments

5. In a letter to the Agency dated 26 May 2011, Syria indicated its readiness to cooperate fully with the Agency to resolve issues related to the Dair Alzour site. Following a number of meetings with the Agency, Syria expressed its readiness to hold a further meeting with the Agency "to agree on an action plan to resolve the outstanding issues in regards to [the] Dair Alzour site".

6. On 9 June 2011, the Board of Governors adopted, by a vote, resolution GOV/2011/41, in which it, *inter alia*, found that Syria's undeclared construction of a nuclear reactor at Dair Alzour and failure to provide design information for the facility constituted non-compliance by Syria with its obligations under its NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Agency in the context of Article XII.C of the Agency's Statute. The Board of Governors called upon Syria to remedy urgently its non-compliance and provide the Agency with updated reporting under its Safeguards Agreement and access to all information, sites, material and persons necessary for the Agency to verify such reporting and resolve all outstanding questions so that the Agency can provide the necessary assurances as to the exclusively peaceful nature of Syria's nuclear programme. The Board also decided to report, as provided for in Article XII.C of the Statute, through the Director General, Syria's non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement to all Members of the Agency and to the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations. The Board requested the Director General to continue his efforts to implement fully the Agency's Safeguards Agreement with Syria and to report any significant developments to the Board and to the Security Council, as appropriate, and decided to remain seized of the matter.

7. During a meeting with the Agency in Damascus on 25 and 26 October 2011, Syria stated that it was prepared to grant the Agency access to the Dair Alzour site again, under certain conditions. Syria also stated that the destroyed building at the Dair Alzour site was a non-nuclear, missile related installation and, therefore, the three other locations that the Agency considered as being critical to resolving outstanding questions concerning the purpose of the Dair Alzour site were not relevant to the discussions. Accordingly, Syria was not willing to discuss the three other locations with the Agency. In the meeting, Syria made a proposal regarding possible future actions that focused solely on the Dair Alzour site. The Agency's team acknowledged the proposal but made clear that it would require further review and endorsement.

8. After careful review, the Agency concluded that the proposal discussed at the meeting was not acceptable given the conditions placed by Syria on Agency verification activities and Syria's unwillingness to discuss the locations referred to in paragraph 7 above. The Agency subsequently proposed to Syria to hold further discussions. In a letter to the Agency dated 12 February 2012, Syria indicated that it would provide a detailed response at a later time, noting the difficult prevailing security situation in the country. The Agency has taken note of Syria's letter and has reiterated its request to Syria to hold further discussions to address all the outstanding questions.

C. Other Matters

9. As previously reported, concerning the origin of the anthropogenic uranium particles found at the Miniature Neutron Source Reactor (MNSR), the Agency has concluded that Syria's statements are not inconsistent with the Agency's findings.³

10. As part of the routine implementation of Agency safeguards, a physical inventory verification was carried out at the MNSR on 14 June 2012.

11. The Agency continues to monitor the MNSR, the yellowcake storage area at the Homs Phosphoric Acid Pilot Plant and other locations of safeguards relevance to the Agency.

D. Conclusion

12. Since the Director General's report of 24 May 2011, the Agency has not received any new information from Syria or other Member States that would have an impact on the Agency's assessment of the nature of the destroyed building at the Dair Alzour site. Concerning the three other locations, the Agency remains unable to provide any assessment concerning their nature or operational status.

13. The Director General urges Syria to cooperate fully with the Agency in connection with unresolved issues related to the Dair Alzour site and other locations.

³ GOV/2011/30, paras 27 to 32.