



# TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## UN IN ACTION

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Release Date: September 2009

Programme No. 1198

Length: 3'44"

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian

### IAEA INSPECTS RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN SERBIA

#### VIDEO

SCIENTIST WITH RADIOACTIVE  
MATERIAL

OLD REACTOR AND RADIOACTIVE  
MATERIAL

ELBARADEI ARRIVES AT SITE

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION

This is a spent nuclear fuel element. It contains a radioactive mixture of uranium and plutonium.

For decades, about two and a half tons of these elements have sat here in Serbia, at the Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences. (13.5")

The fuel was used for experiments beginning in the 1950s in this Soviet-designed research reactor, before it shut down in 1984. Since then, the fuel has been stored in poor condition at the site, and it's a danger to the people who live and work around Vinča. (15.5")

The UN's nuclear agency is now partnering with Serbia on a project to take care of the problem.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is working to secure and clean up Vinča. But the task is arduous, the costs considerable, and there is pressure to finish the job soon. (17.5")

In July, IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei visited Vinča. (4.5")

ELBARADEI ON CAMERA

ELBARADEI: (English) **M**

*“What we have seen of course is that a lot of work needs to be done here, and we will continue to work with Serbia very closely to make sure it’s done as early as possible.” (7”)*

ABANDONED REACTOR SITE

NARRATION

For decades, thousands of the fuel elements have sat cooling in a pool of water. But now the barrels that contain the fuel are beginning to deteriorate, and could cause contamination. (10.5”)

SCIENTISTS AT SITE

To decrease the risk, the safest option is to remove the fuel. So, the IAEA is working together with Serbia, the EU, the Czech Republic, and other countries to ship the spent fuel back to Russia, where it initially came from. (13.5”)

ELBARADEI ON CAMERA

ELBARADEI: (English) **M**

*“The more we continue to keep the spent fuel in Vinča, which is corroding, which is degrading, the more the risk increases.” (9”)*

WAREHOUSES WITH WASTE

NARRATION

Located on the outskirts of Belgrade, Vinča also has two rusting warehouses filled with radioactive waste, from all over the former Yugoslavia. The condition of the buildings poses a serious security risk, and threatens to contaminate local people and the environment. But a solution is in sight. (19.5”)

SCIENTISTS MEASURE RADIATION

NEW STORAGE FACILITY

The IAEA helped to construct this new long-term storage facility, which was just completed with donations from the US, the EU and the Nuclear Threat Initiative. The modern building will safely store the waste from the two older warehouses. Area residents who live and work around Vinča are aware of the clean-up efforts at the site. This man runs a restaurant on the Danube, just minutes from Vinča. (24.5”)

RESIDENTS IN STREET

RESTAURANT OWNER ON CAMERA

RESTAURANT OWNER: (Serbian) **M**  
*“I’ve lived here my whole life, and I know that in recent years there has been a lot of work done at Vinča. I don’t think there’s anything to be worried about regarding my health and the life of people living around Vinča.” (14)*

OLD REACTORS AND  
WAREHOUSES WITH SCIENTISTS

NARRATION  
It will take a few more years to repackage and return the spent nuclear fuel to Russia, and to remove the waste from the aging warehouses. Serbia also wants to eventually dismantle the reactor, but more funding is needed before that work can begin. (14”)

ELBARADEI ON CAMERA

ELBARADEI: (English) **M**  
*“We have been working hard to make sure that we move all of the spent fuel from Vinča and continue to work on all the radiation problems that still exist in Vinča, including the decommissioning of the reactor.” (14.5”)*

SCIENTISTS AT NEW AND OLD  
WAREHOUSES

NARRATION

The project, the largest in the IAEA's history, is helping to move the world closer to realizing a vision where nuclear material is safe, secure, and accounted for. (11")

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Dana Sacchetti for the United Nations.