



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

Week of 5 December 2005
Programme No. 986
Length: 2'15"

REMOVAL OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS MATERIAL FROM LATVIA

VIDEO

SCIENTIST OPENING LID OF
BARREL
DILAPIDATED
RESEARCH REACTOR

IAEA INSPECTORS VERIFY AND
MEASURE

SCIENTIST PLACES HEU FUEL
ROD IN CONTAINER

SCIENTIST ON-CAMERA

AUDIO

A secret mission; the removal of highly enriched uranium, the key ingredient of a nuclear bomb. It's stored at a shut down research reactor in Latvia. (7")

Inspectors from the United Nations' IAEA monitor the operation, as the weapons grade material is removed. (7")

They verify the quantity and seal it before airlifting to Russia for processing so it cannot be used to build weapons. (8")

The mission is part of a joint programme between the United States, Russia and the IAEA to clean up stocks of enriched uranium left at old Soviet research reactors. (12")

BOLSHINSKY:

"The risk is possible that some material can get in the hands of terrorists and they can make a bomb." (7")

NARRATION

LOOKING INTO HEU FUEL ROD Dr. Bolshinsky calculates there is enough material to make 50 to 60 nuclear weapons. (6")

PLAQUE This Latvian reactor was shut down 10 years ago. There are a dozen more. (6")

MENDELSON:

MENDELSON ON-CAMERA "There are nights that I don't sleep out of concern for this material. There's quite a bit out there." (5")

FLAGS/IAEA HQ At IAEA's Vienna headquarters arrangements are made to secure it. ((5")

SAMIEI:

IAEA EXPERT "Currently we are working on some 20 countries but over all there are some 80 countries with research reactors and a lot of them still have highly enriched uranium." (9")

NARRATION

STOCK FOOTAGE/NUCLEAR REACTORS The research reactors are a legacy of the 1950s Atoms for Peace programme when the US supplied reactors and enriched uranium to friendly countries, while the Russians did the same. (10")

SAMIEI:

IAEA EXPERT "Research reactors have many medical, industrial and agricultural applications. Especially in the medical area. Many cancer patients benefit." (9")

NARRATION

RUSSIAN, IAEA & LATVIAN
SCIENTISTS

The deadline to secure some 1.5 tonnes of this highly enriched uranium is 2010. The Latvian removal brings it one step closer. (10")

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Kirstie Hansen for the United Nations. (5")