

**Does  
nuclear power  
mean  
proliferation?**

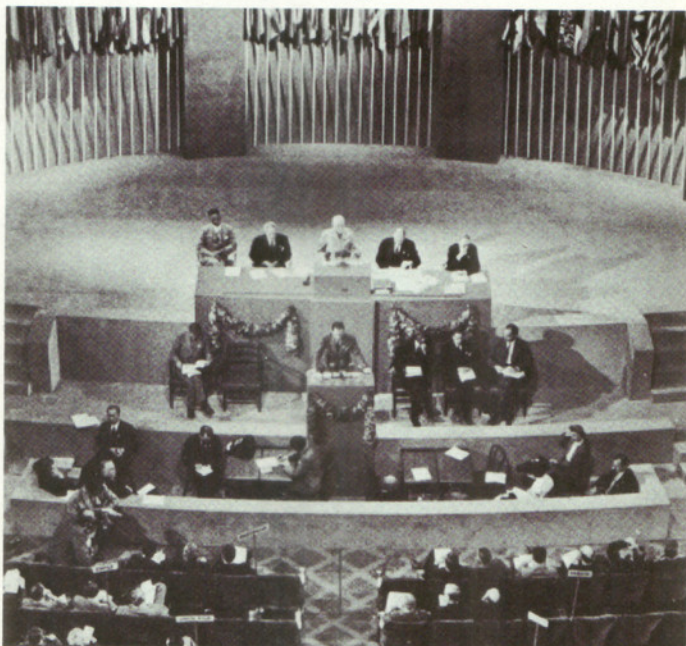


There are easier, cheaper ways to get nuclear bombs than building a nuclear power plant.



Fifty to a hundred countries could develop a nuclear weapons capability. They need only to decide that those weapons are worth a lot of time, effort and money. Then, they could simply choose which way they would get the materials to build them.

The simplest and least expensive method would be the use of a non-power-producing research reactor. And there are now 46 countries which have them. Any of those reactors could be scaled up enough to produce sufficient nuclear weapons material to build a few bombs each year. The cost would be less than \$100 million. And it would take fewer than five years to do it.



A nuclear power plant is the most expensive and time consuming method they could choose. The cost would be more than \$500 million. And it would take up to 14 years and would require more sophisticated technology than using a research reactor.

Withholding nuclear power from other countries won't keep them from getting nuclear bombs. It won't even slow down the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Instead, nuclear power can give all countries a safe, clean source of economical electricity. To compete in the world market. To improve their economies. With less dependence on other countries. With nuclear power, they may have less need for a nuclear weapons capability.



Forty-six countries already have experimental reactors that could be scaled up enough to produce nuclear weapons.

This is one of a series  
of answers to the most  
frequently asked questions  
about breeder reactors.

# the Breeder

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