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Weekly Surveyor

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: SEP 2001

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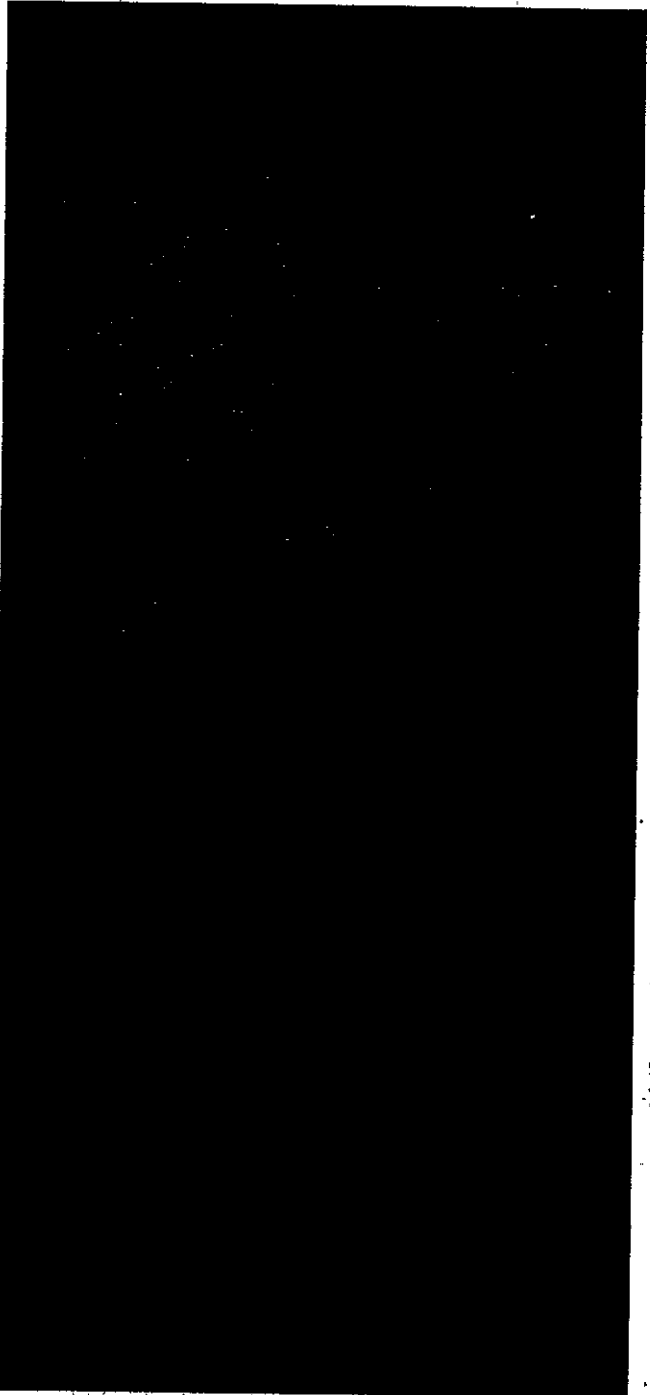
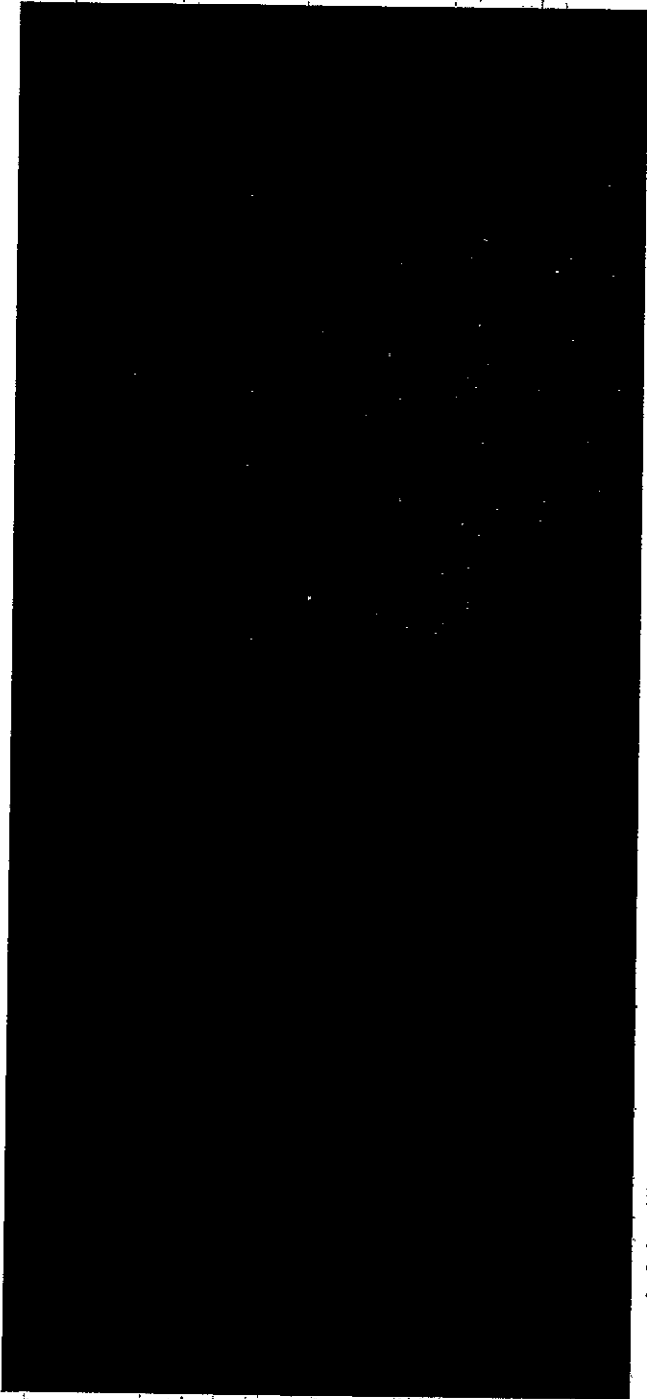
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21 April 1975

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WEEKLY SURVEYOR

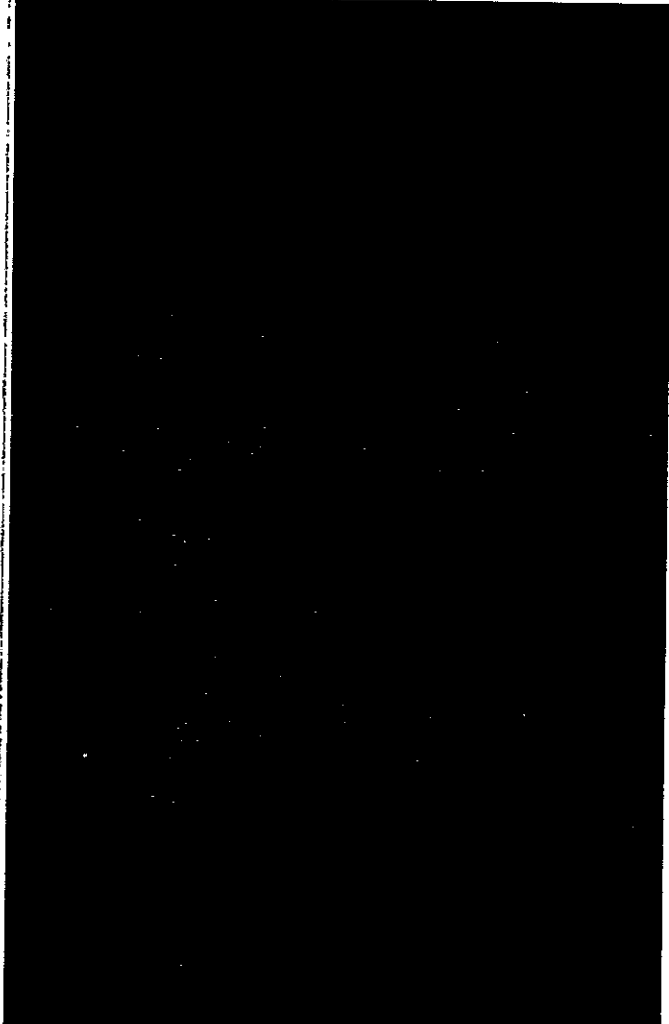
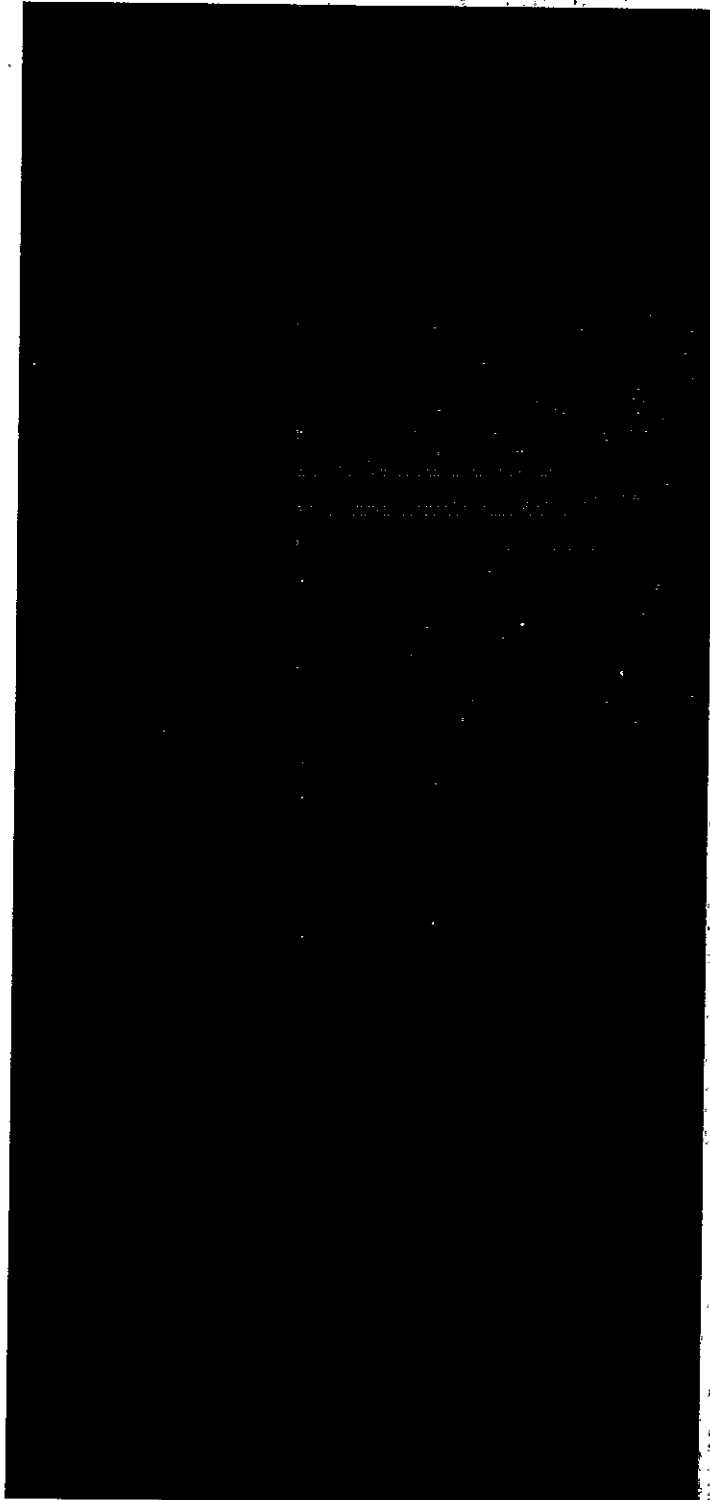


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21 Apr 76

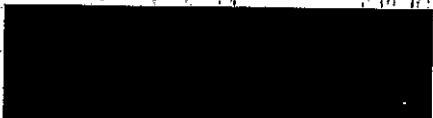
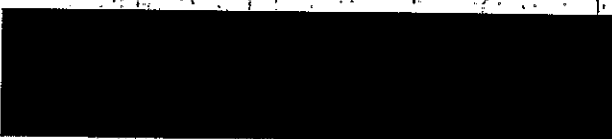
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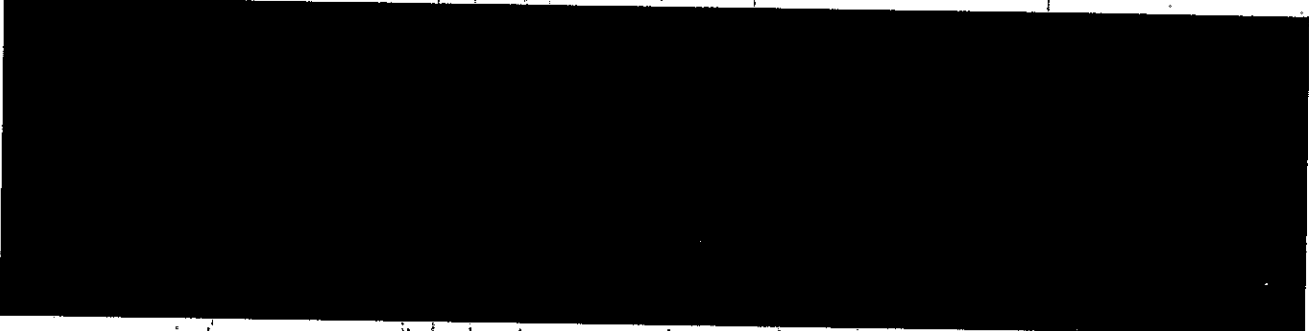
Parts of the South African uranium enrichment pilot plant are now in operation. The process used in the plant is believed to be based on aerodynamic principles like the Becker nozzle process, and it is likely that only certain parts of the process are being tested. [redacted] (Page 2)



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III
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[REDACTED]
21 Apr 75

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[REDACTED]

South African Uranium Enrichment Pilot Plant in Operation:
The Prime Minister of the Republic of South Africa has announced that the pilot plant at Valindaba went into operation during the weekend of 5-6 April. (Reuters 1217, 7 Apr 75) [REDACTED]

Comment: Since 1971, the South Africans have been constructing a pilot plant for enrichment of uranium, which they claim uses a new domestically developed process. Various dates had been set for the plant to go into operation, the latest having been at the end of 1975. The South African pilot facility contains three processing buildings.

[REDACTED] It is unlikely that the Prime Minister's announcement refers to the start-up of the entire installation. It is possible that only one or two of the three processing buildings have gone into operation, and it is likely that only certain parts of the process are being tested.

The process used in the plant is believed to be based on aerodynamic principles like the Becker nozzle process. The pilot plant is large enough to have a small economic production capability. The South Africans are planning to construct a full scale commercial plant to be built with South African funds or jointly with funds from a Western country. The South Africans will use the large domestic uranium ore reserves available to them. [REDACTED]