THE ORIGINS OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION

A CRITICAL ORAL HISTORY BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL

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FULL TEXT:

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"As Brazilians and Argentines went to the polls in 1989, the debate about nuclear choices was framed in terms of economic management. Both Carlos Menem (Argentina) and Fernando Collor (Brazil) won the vote on the promise of reining in inflation and reversing their countries' economic fortunes, and saw nuclear policy through those lenses. Even though foreign observers feared a possible rollback in Argentine-Brazilian nuclear rapprochement (Kessler 1989, Albright 1989), in November 1990 Menem and Collor took nuclear cooperation one step further by establishing a common system for accounting and controls of all nuclear activities. Within months, they set up the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) as the bilateral agency to carry out inspections and controls, and negotiated a safeguards agreement between themselves, the ABACC and the IAEA." (p. 11).