



Iran cannot have claimed to be building a thermonuclear reactor - expert

To build a thermonuclear reactor by its own efforts is a task absolutely beyond Iran's strength, and reports that Iran has made such claims must be a misunderstanding, a nuclear specialist said. Georgy Yeliseyev, chief specialist at the Institute of Nuclear Fusion of the Russian Research Center Kurchatov Institute, said: "Our specialists advised Iranian colleagues last year. I do not believe that the Iranian researchers could have said such nonsense. Perhaps they wanted to boast about another of their laboratory achievements, but were misunderstood." Work to create a thermonuclear reactor has been pursued in all leading countries for several decades now, with no result yet. The main outcome is an international project to build the world's first experimental thermonuclear reactor ITER in France. The project involves the European Union, America, Russia, Germany, Japan, South Korea, China and India. Its cost, including design outlays, is astronomical. The reactor will take about eight years to build. "In 1994, we supplied a small Tokomak-type installation to our Iranian colleagues. At about the same time China sold another Tokomak to the Iranians. They can be used for experimentation or student studies. Experiments of this scale were carried out in the USSR and the United States back in the 1970s. Mind you the ITER vacuum chamber alone is 14 meters high, while the entire Iranian Tokomak takes up the space of two desks. It is like comparing a modern Boeing to the Wright brothers' aeroplane," Yeliseyev said.

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