

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate use

Death of Dr. Jan Korec, Slovak Nuclear Research Chief

Brussels, 23 February 2001: In reaction to the suspicious death earlier today of Dr. Jan Korec, Director General of the Slovak Nuclear Power Plant Research Institute (VUJE), FORATOM's Secretary General, Dr. Wolf-J. Schmidt-Küster, made the following statement:

"The European nuclear community is both shocked and saddened by the death of Jan Korec, a leading figure in the nuclear energy research field in the Slovak Republic.

"Dr. Korec was one of the founders of VUJE, which is active not only in Central and Eastern Europe but also in France, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and even China. He was also Vice President of the Slovak Nuclear Forum, which became a FORATOM member organisation at the end of last year."

Initial reports suggest that Dr. Korec may have been the victim of a contract killing, but so far this has not been confirmed by police investigating the case.

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