

IMAGE
UNAVAILABLE
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REASONS

L. GILLERON/KEystone/AP

nuclear weapons programme," he alleges.

But if the second stage of ElBaradei's plan is tough, the third and fourth are truly ambitious. Part three would bring the reprocessing of spent fuel under multilateral control, perhaps at a series of dedicated regional facilities. Finally, existing enrichment facilities would come under international ownership. Countries that rely on such facilities to fuel their nuclear arsenals are extremely unlikely to

agree, say experts. "For the United States, that's a dream," says Fitzpatrick.

He acknowledges that the fuel bank, if it can be made to work, would be a useful step towards achieving at least some of ElBaradei's plans. But even supporters accept that there is a very long diplomatic fight to come. "No one is naive on this point," says Shaw. "The longer term will be much more difficult." ■
Jim Giles

are expected to be half that.

The latest project follows on from a similar idea in the 1990s. In 1993, two planes run by Japan Airlines began carrying simple equipment to collect air samples for analysis in the laboratory. But samples were taken only twice a month on flights between Tokyo and Australia.

When the planes came up for retirement, scientists began to develop a device that could offer continuous monitoring. The equipment samples air from the front of the plane's engines and so does not pick up

the aircraft's own emissions, says Yukio Nakagawa, manager at the engineering department of Japan Airlines. The hardest task, he notes, was creating a device with the appropriate specifications given the limited time and cost.

Inside the plane's cargo compartment, air flows through spectrometers that continuously measure the CO₂ concentration. Associated equipment detects other greenhouse gases, such as sulphur hexafluoride.

Although the equipment has

so far flown on just one plane, the company plans to add devices to four more of its Boeings by the end of next year.

Toshihiro Ogawa, a retired atmospheric chemist formerly at the University of Tokyo, says the project should help researchers to quantify carbon dioxide emissions and so make it easier for countries to conform to the Kyoto Protocol on climate change. "Figuring out the real carbon dioxide emissions per country is our big homework," he says. ■
Ichiko Fuyuno

ON THE RECORD

"I'd like to say to the good citizens of Dover: if there is a disaster in your area, don't turn to God. You just rejected him from your city."

Christian talk-show host Pat Robertson attacks the result of the school-board election in Dover, Pennsylvania, which saw eight proponents of intelligent design lose their seats (see page 267).

"Even if a dynamic physics model suggests cow tipping is possible, the biology ultimately gets in the way."

Margo Lillie of the University of British Columbia argues that, contrary to popular belief, it is far from easy to tip over a cow.

Sources: Reuters, The Times

SCORECARD



Music

Astronauts on the International Space Station get an unusual wake-up call as Paul McCartney becomes the first person to broadcast live music into space.



Espionage

A Russian researcher claims to have found a way to control turtles remotely. The creatures can be used to spy behind enemy lines and even deliver bombs, he says.



Lunar land prospecting

Chinese authorities have shut down a 'Lunar Embassy' that sold plots on the Moon for US\$37 an acre.

OVERHYPED

Treatments for bird flu

The threat of an avian flu pandemic has worried many people. As a result, a number of unconventional remedies are being offered as ways to combat the disease. In recent weeks, oil of oregano, colloidal silver and the pickled Korean cabbage known as *kimchi* have all been touted for their purported flu-fighting properties. None has been proved to work — and none can beat the advice of the experts in the event of a pandemic: just stay at home.