Terrorists can’t use converted plutonium

Preventing the shipment of plutonium for conversion to nuclear reactor fuel only increases the risk that such material could be used by terrorists (“Planned plutonium shipment stirs fears,” June 23). Using weapons-grade plutonium as fuel for nuclear reactors ensures that it can never again be used to produce weapons of mass destruction (with the side benefit of generating substantial amounts of electricity).

Immobilization, as advocated by anti-nuclear organizations, does nothing to prevent the future use of plutonium in nuclear weapons.

This “swords-to-plowshares” approach is already reaping tremendous benefits as large quantities of weapons-grade uranium from U.S. and Russian nuclear weapons have been converted to reactor fuel and used to generate electricity under the terms of a disarmament treaty. We should not fear the shipment of plutonium for the same purpose; we should applaud it.

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