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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

PRIORITY

Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY INDIA / CHINA

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SUBJECT

INDIAN GOVERNMENT POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPON

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

(22 OCTOBER 1964)

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IN 99143

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL:

FIELD REPORT NO.

APPRAISAL: 3

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (GOI) HAS ALL OF THE ELEMENTS NECESSARY TO PRODUCE A NUCLEAR WEAPON AND IT HAS THE CAPABILITY TO ASSEMBLE A BOMB QUICKLY. INDIA DOES NOT PLAN TO COMMENCE WORK ON THE BOMB AS YET BECAUSE THE GOI IS CONVINCED THE CHICOMS WILL NOT HAVE AN OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR CAPABILITY FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS. IN THE MEANTIME, SHOULD THE SITUATION CHANGE, INDIA IS RELYING ON PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S ASSURANCES TO COME TO THE AID OF ANY NATION MENACED BY CHINA. (SOURCE COMMENT: WHEN PARLIAMENT RECONVENES EARLY IN NOVEMBER THE GOI EXPECTS PRESSURE FROM SOME DEPUTIES FOR INDIA TO PRODUCE A BOMB. HOWEVER THE GOI PLANS TO RESIST THESE PRESSURES).

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2. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY NAVY AIR USMSMI CINCEAFSA, CINCPAC,
PACFLT, ARPAC, PACAF.

END OF MESSAGE

CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

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