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E18

PAGE 01 BEIJIN 10586 240940Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 IO-14 ADS-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-02 OES-09 DODE-00
H-01 DOE-17 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-07 SAS-02
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 SPRS-02
DOEE-00 HA-06 /143 W

-----090435 240947Z /16

O R 240909Z OCT 80
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7914
INFO AMCONSUL SHANGHAI
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
USMISSION GENEVA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE JM/IPS/CR/IR/Am Date: 3/19/98
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY IN PART
 DENY BO Citations

FOIA Exemptions ()
PA Exemptions ()

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EO. 12065: GDS 10/24/80 (WOODCOCK, LEONARD) OR-M
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, CH, US
SUBJECT: CHINESE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

REF: STATE 282457

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. POINTS CITED IN REFTTEL WERE MADE TO MFA'S JI CHAOZHOU,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN AFFAIRS, BY E/C
COUNSELOR ON SEPTEMBER 24.

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3. IN RESPONDING TO THE USG'S POSITION, JI MADE THE FOLLOWING
POINTED:

1) NUCLEAR TESTING IS ESSENTIAL TO CHINA'S NATIONAL
DEFENSE AND WILL CONTINUE AS LONG AS IT REMAINS NECESSARY.
HOWEVER, THE CHINESE WILL CONDUCT ONLY THE MINIMUM NUMBER
OF NUCLEAR TESTS CONSISTENT WITH NATIOAL DEFENSE REQUIRE-
MENTS AND WILL EXERT THEIR BEST EFFORTS TO CONTROL THE

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AMOUNT OF ATMOSPHERIC NUCLEAR RADIATION TO A MINIMUM.

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2) CHINA HAS NOT YET DEVELOPED AN UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TEST CAPACITY AND SO MUST CONTINUE WITH ATMOSPHERIC TESTING. UNTIL SUCH TIME AS UNDERGROUND TESTS ARE FEASIBLE IN CHINA, THE PRC WILL NOT BE OBLIGATED BY BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON ATMOSPHERIC TESTING.

3) CHINA REGRETS THAT SEVERAL AIRCRAFT WERE EXPLODED TO ATMOSPHERIC DEBRIS FROM ITS TEST, BUT UNDERSTANDS THAT THE RADIATION LEVELS WERE SO LOW IN BOTH THE US AND WESTERN EUROPE AS TO NOT BE A HEALTH AND SAFETY DANGER.

4. E/C COUNSELOR ASKED IF, IN THE FUTURE, CHINA WOULD BE PREPARED TO ISSUE AN INTERNATIONAL NOTICE TO AIRMEN SO THAT POSSIBLE AREAS OF ATMOSPHERIC RADIATION COULD BE AVOIDED ON FUTURE ATMOSPHERIC TESTS. JI RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH HIS SUPERIORS.
WOODCOCK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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