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28 MAY 87

**NORTH KOREA: Delaying Safeguards Agreement**

North Korea has been slow in complying with provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty that require a country to enter into a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency within 18 months after signing the document. The North Koreans signed the treaty in late 1985 at Moscow's urging.

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There is no indication that North Korea has an active nuclear weapons program, but P'yongyang's failure to establish full safeguards is certain to trouble Seoul. Other countries have exceeded the treaty's 18-month deadline provision.

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