1. DESPITE REPEATED HIGH-LEVEL STATEMENTS BY THE HIGHEST GONT
OFFICIALS THAT TAIWAN WOULD NEVER DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE
ISSUE CONTINUES TO SURFACE PERIODICALLY. THE NEWSPAPER TA
HUA WAN PAO REPORTED ON A SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION IN ITS
DECEMBER 31 ISSUE. CHANG I-CHUNG (1728/096/7562), A CONVENOR
OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF THE CONTROL YUAN IS
QUOTED AS URGING NUCLEAR WEAPON DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THAT
ALTHOUGH TAIWAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES SIGNED THE CONVENTION NOT TO
DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS, MANY OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE SUCCEEDED
IN DEVELOPING THEIR NUCLEAR WEAPONS SECRETLY AND THAT "WE NEED
NOT KEEP THE PROMISE STRICTLY AND SUFFER." CHANG ADDED THAT
MATERIAL (I.E., PLUTONIUM) MIGHT BE PURCHASED FROM "THE THIRD
WORLD" AND THAT SUCH WEAPONS WERE FEASIBLE AND EFFECTIVE
DETERRENTS.

2. OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE SYMPOSIUM OPPOSED NUCLEAR WEAPONS,
ONE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY WERE NOT IMPORTANT IN THE "TOTAL
WAR" WAGED AGAINST THE PRC IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, DIPLOMATIC
AND HUMAN-RIGHTS AREAS. OTHERS OPPOSED NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON
THE GROUNDS - FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED IN THE PAST - THAT THE
"ENEMY" IS THE SMALL GROUP OF COMMUNISTS IN Peking, NOT THE
PEOPLE OF THE MAINLAND AND THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD HURT
INNOCENT PATRIOTS.

3. CK'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE CALLED FOR SELF-RELIANCE AND THE
AUGMENTATION OF "NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS" TO STRENGTHEN
DEFENSE, BUT HE DID NOT MENTION NUCLEAR WEAPONS. NEITHER
DID PREMIER SUN IN HIS JANUARY 8 SPEECH AT A KMT MEETING
ALTHOUGH HE URGED A STRENGTHENED DEFENSE CAPABILITY.

4. COMMENT: WE EXPECT THIS DISCUSSION WILL CONTINUE BETWEEN
THOSE WHO BELIEVE TAIWAN SHOULD DEVELOP ANY WEAPON TO DEFEND
ITSELF AND THOSE WHO STOP SHORT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS: WE BELIEVE
THE GONT HAS NOT CHANGED ITS POLICY IN THIS REGARD ALTHOUGH
IT WILL CERTAINLY WISH AT LEAST TO LEAVE SOME AMBIGUITY ABOUT
KEEPING ITS OPTIONS OPEN TO ENHANCE ITS CHANCES OF ADEQUATE
SECURITY GUARANTEES FROM THE U.S. AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THE
MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. DESPITE ITS FIRMLY EXPRESSED
OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WE ALSO BELIEVE THE GONT IS NOT
ADVERSE TO UNCERTAINTY ABROAD, ESPECIALLY IN THE PRC, OVER
ITS NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. THE POTENTIAL HAS MANY OF THE
ADVANTAGES OF THE REAL BOMB.