E.O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: PARK, FR, CH
SUBJECT: FRENCH AND CHINESE NUCLEAR TESTING

REF: LIMA 1280

1. INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE INDICATES FRENCH ARE PLANNING THREE OR FOUR LOW-YIELD TESTS IN ATMOSPHERE FOR THEIR 1973 PACIFIC TEST SERIES. FRENCH HOPE TO AVOID PROBLEM OF OBJECTIONS BY PACIFIC COAST STATES BY CONDUCTING TESTS (AS IN 1972) WITH NO ANNOUNCEMENT EITHER OF INDIVIDUAL SHOTS OR OF SERIES EITHER DURING OR AFTER COMPLETION. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN INDICATIONS OF INTEREST AMONG SOME IN THE GOF IN MOVING TOWARD UNDERGROUND TESTING. ISLAND OF EIAO, IN MARQUESAS, IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN OBJECT OF INTENSIVE GEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION FOR USE AS UNDERGROUND TEST SITE, BUT THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF PREPARATIONS FOR TESTS THERE THIS YEAR. FYI: ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR FRENCH GOING TO UNDERGROUND TESTING ARE ESTIMATED TO BE 10 TO 20 TIMES FIGURE QUOTED REFTEL. END FYI. IF FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS REFLECT A FIRM GOF DECISION TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO UNDERGROUND TESTING FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO USG. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS PARIS MAY HAVE ON THIS.

2. THERE IS APPARENTLY SOME CONFUSION REGARDING CHINESE INTENTIONS. ANY PRC DECISION TO AVOID FURTHER ATMOSPHERIC TESTING WOULD CARRY INTERESTING IMPLICATIONS FOR ITS VOTE ON THE LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY. H.
STAND ON THE LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF A CHANGE IN PRC STAND ON EITHER THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY OR THE LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY. CLARIFICATION OF CANADIAN INFORMATION WOULD BE HELPFUL. YY