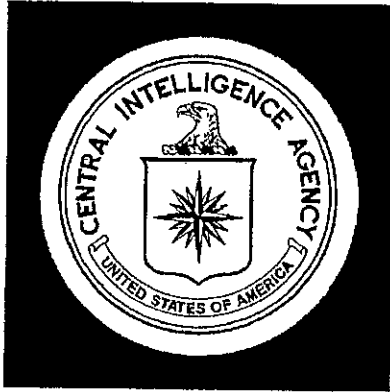
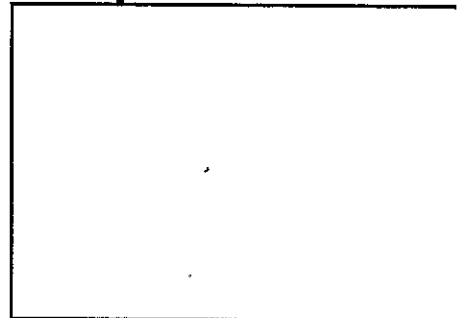


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[Redacted]

FRANCE: The French nuclear test series for 1973 appears likely to get under way in the South Pacific soon [Redacted] Closure of "danger areas" and press reports from Paris had indicated that the first test would occur earlier than that date.

[Redacted]

The series probably will involve three or four low-yield detonations, one of which may be a test of a tactical nuclear bomb. The impending tests have evoked vigorous protests from a number of countries in the South Pacific, and Paris has admitted that the outcry this year has been especially strong. Australia and New Zealand have taken the issue to the UN and the International Court of Justice. The French Government, however, has made it clear that it will proceed with the tests, that it will not be bound by any decisions of these organizations, and that it considers the protests to be hypocritical.

[Redacted]

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13 Jul 73

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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