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SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE DIGEST

Directorate of Science and Technology

Office of Scientific Intelligence

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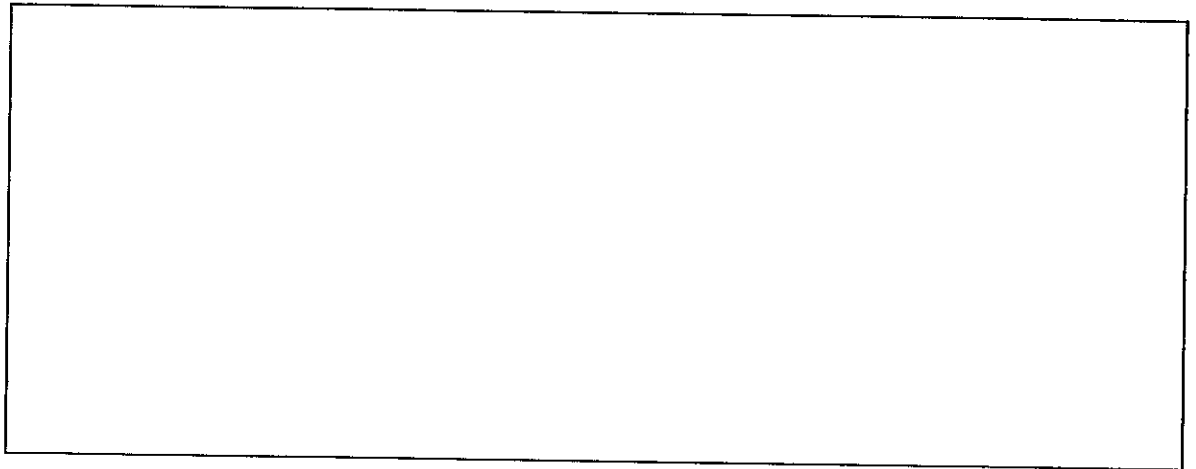
OSI-SD
April 1966

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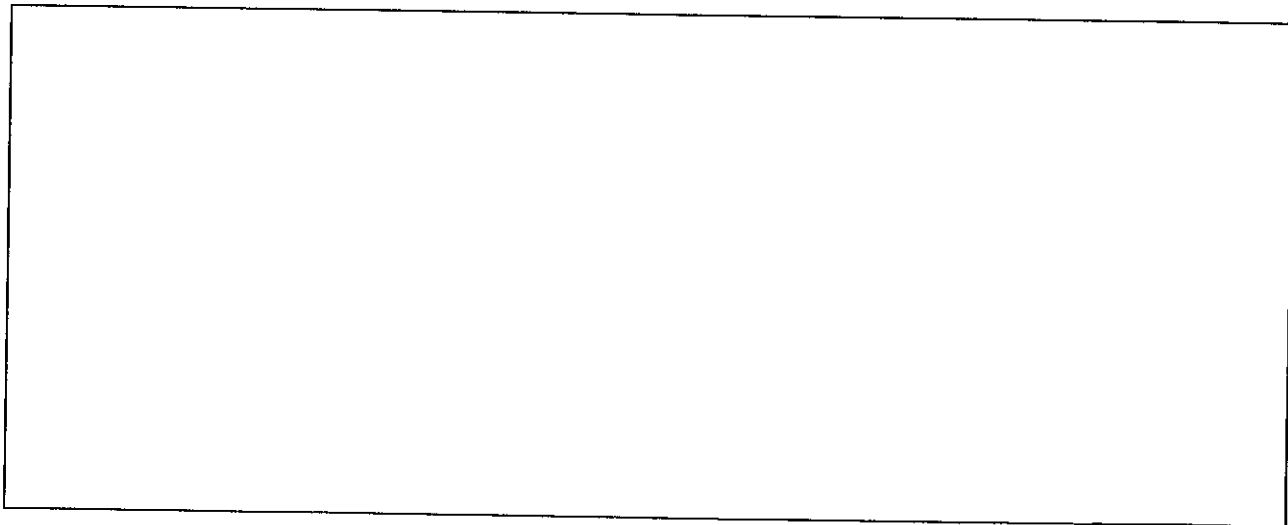


Indian Nuclear Plans

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INDIAN NUCLEAR PLANS

[redacted]
OSI/CIA

The Indian nuclear policy at this time is to refrain from embarking on a nuclear weapons program, although the policy could be changed quickly. In fact, the Indians reportedly are conducting a limited amount of research devoted to reducing the time it would take to develop a weapon once a decision is made.

[redacted]

[redacted] At present the only sizable reactor operating in India is the Canada-India Reactor (CIR), a research reactor at Trombay. Three other reactors under construction are the two U.S.-supplied reactors for the Tarapur Atomic Power Project and the Canadian-supplied reactor for the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP I).

[redacted] a Canadian aid team was in New Delhi during February to discuss financing the planned second power reactor at the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP II). Indian officials unanimously reaffirmed their desire to proceed with the project and with the planned Madras nuclear power project as well.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] India hoped that Canada would not insist on safeguards for RAPP II. [redacted] if Canada were to insist, India would have to reconsider the project and might be forced to delay it until India could undertake it on its own. In this respect,

[redacted] India was most reluctant to tie-up its future nuclear reactors with safeguards since such a development would not be consistent with the possible future requirements of Indian national security. However, it is expected that Canada will continue to insist on adequate safeguard for RAPP II.

India always has been reluctant to accept safeguards, but requires foreign assistance in both financing and constructing large nuclear reactors. The only Indian reactor capable of producing plutonium for a nuclear weapons program (1 or 2 weapons per year) at the present time is the 40 megawatt (MW) CIR research reactor at Trombay. While Canada placed safeguards on the uranium it supplied for the first fuel load of this reactor, subsequent Indian-supplied loadings and the reactor itself are not subject to safeguards. However, the

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agreement between India and Canada for its construction contained a clause that the reactor would be used only for peaceful purposes. Both the U.S.-supplied reactors for the 380 MW (electric) Tarapur Atomic Power Project

and the first 200 MW (electric) Canadian-supplied reactor of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP I), which now are under construction, are subject to safeguards. [redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted]