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DEPARTMENT OF STATE IM/TPS/CR/IR *3/19/98*
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR TEXT)

FOIA Exemptions _____ CLASSIFY as () S or ()
Exemptions _____ DOWNGRADE IS to () or ()

FOR EA ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

E.O. 12065 XDS-3, 10/24/00 (WOODCOCK, LEONARD) OR-M
TAGS: MNUC TECH, CH US
SUBJECT: CHINESE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

REF: A. STATE 282457, B. BEIJING 10586

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. MFA AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT DEPUTY
DIRECTOR JI CHAOZHU'S RESPONSE TO THE E/C COUNSELOR'S
DEMARCHE CONCERNING THE PRC'S OCTOBER 16 ATMOSPHERIC
NUCLEAR TEST, AS REPORTED IN REF B, ALSO INCLUDED
THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT, WHICH WE ARE REPORTING
SEPARATELY.

3. AFTER NOTING THAT THE PRC WOULD CONTINUE
ATMOSPHERIC TESTING UNTIL SUCH TIME AS UNDERGROUND
TESTS WERE FEASIBLE, JI ADDED:
AS THE USG IS AWARE, CHINA HAS SOUGHT U.S. ASSISTANCE
IN DEVELOPING THE CAPACITY TO CONDUCT UNDERGROUND
TESTS IN CHINA. IF THE U.S. WERE PREPARED TO PROVIDE

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THE REQUESTED ASSISTANCE, CHINA COULD POSSIBLY
ACCELERATE ITS SCHEDULE FOR BEGINNING UNDERGROUND
TESTING AND OBTAIN THE NEED FOR ATMOSPHERIC TESTING.

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