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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-00 EUR-12 NEA-06 IO-14 ADS-00 OES-09 ACDA-12
PM-07 EPA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08
NRC-02 DODE-00 H-01 DOE-17 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01
SAS-02 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 SPRS-02
DOEE-00 SIG-03 /140 R

DRAFTED BY EA/C:DREUTHER:GO
APPROVED BY EA:RCHOLBROOKE
EA/C:CWFREEMAN, JR.
OES/NTS/BSCHRAGE (SUBS)
ACDA:ANEIDLE
PM/NPP:WUTHE
EPA:LSTARBIRD(INFO)
PM/DCA:FSELEC

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O P 222342Z OCT 80
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL SHANGHAI PRIORITY
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
USMISSION GENEVA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE JM/IPS/CR/TF
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY EO Citations
 DENY IN PART

FOIA Exemptions _____
PA Exemptions _____
{ } CLASSIFY as () S or ()
{ } DOWNGRADE TO () S or ()

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E.O. 12065: GDS 10/22/80 (HOLBROOKE, RICHARD C.)

TAGS: MNUC, TECH, CH, US

SUBJECT: CHINESE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THE CHINESE CONDUCTED AN ATMOSPHERIC NUCLEAR TEST ON

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OCTOBER 16 -- THE SIXTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR FIRST NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. THE YIELD RANGE WAS 200 KT -- ONE MEGATON. FALLOUT FROM IT APPEARED TO THREATEN INTERNATIONAL AVIATION IN THE NORTH PACIFIC. WE BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO REITERATE TO THE CHINESE OUR POSITION ON ATMOSPHERIC TESTING. WE NOTE THAT A NUMBER OF PACIFIC RIM COUNTRIES HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE EMBASSY AT THE COUNSELOR LEVEL CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE MFA OFFICIAL AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ORALLY:

- -- THE US ATTITUDE TOWARD ATMOSPHERIC TESTING OF NUCLEAR DEVICES IS WELL KNOWN.

- -- TESTS, SUCH AS THE CHINESE HAVE JUST CONCLUDED, POSE A HEALTH AND SAFETY HAZARD, ESPECIALLY TO INTERNATIONAL AVIATION. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT DID

NOT TAKE ANY STEPS TO WARN INTERNATIONAL AVIATION OF THE FALLOUT GENERATED BY ITS EXPLOSION OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE ON OCTOBER 16. SEVERAL AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING ONE COMMERCIAL FLIGHT, REPORTEDLY FLEW THROUGH THE CONTAMINATION. FORTUNATELY, NO SERIOUS EVIDENCE OF
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CONTAMINATION WAS FOUND WHEN THESE AIRCRAFT WERE CHECKED UPON LANDING IN THE UNITED STATES.

- -- THE RADIOACTIVE CLOUD REACHED THE US ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, AND WE HAVE BEEN MONITORING THE RADIOACTIVE DEBRIS SINCE.

- -- WE BELIEVE, AS A FRIENDLY COUNTRY, THAT WE SHOULD SHARE WITH YOU OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE RISKS TO INTERNATIONAL AVIATION THAT RESULT FROM ATMOSPHERIC TESTING, PARTICULARLY WHEN UNANNOUNCED, AND THAT WE SHOULD CONVEY TO YOU THE CONCERNS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ABOUT THE EFFECT OF SUCH EXPLOSIONS ON PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE UNITED STATES.

4. PRESS GUIDANCE (FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23):

- SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT: I WAS ASKED A FEW DAYS AGO WHETHER WE WOULD RAISE WITH THE CHINESE THEIR OCTOBER 16 ATMOSPHERIC NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT WE HAVE INSTRUCTED OUR EMBASSY AT BEIJING TO REITERATE OUR POSITION ON ATMOSPHERIC TESTING AND TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT THE DANGERS SUCH TESTS POSE TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

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- Q. WHEN WAS THIS APPROACH MADE AND WHY THE DELAY?

- A. THE EMBASSY WAS INSTRUCTED TO MAKE THIS APPROACH TODAY. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THIS A SIGNIFICANT DELAY.

- Q. (IF ASKED) WHAT HAVE BEEN THE RESULTS OF THE DATA ANALYSIS?

- A. WE UNDERSTAND FROM EPA THAT AT THIS TIME THERE HAS NOT BEEN AN APPRECIABLE INCREASE IN BACKGROUND
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RADIATION OVER THE US. PLEASE CHECK WITH EPA FOR FURTHER DETAILS. MUSKIE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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