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National Intelligence Bulletin

Approved for Release
Date MAR 2000

March 16, 1976

No 697

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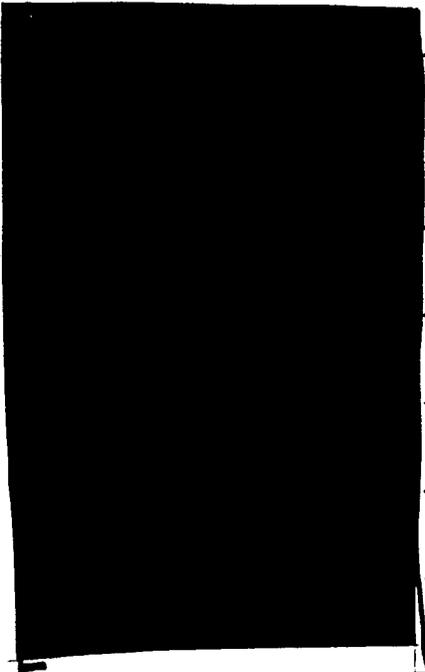
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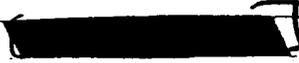
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on nuclear aid initialed



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CANADA-INDIA

New Delhi and Ottawa initialed a nuclear aid agreement on March 6, which, if ratified, will commit India not to test for over a year. The agreement calls for a resumption of Canadian assistance for the Rajasthan Nuclear Power Project. Canada suspended aid to this project after India detonated its first nuclear device in 1974.

Under the agreement, the Rajasthan project is to be completed within 15 months of ratification by the two governments, and New Delhi has implicitly agreed not to test during this period. The Indians also accepted Canada's safeguards requirements on the Rajasthan reactors and gave an oral assurance that India does not intend to export explosive material or technology.

[REDACTED] they expect difficulties in securing the final approval of the Canadian cabinet. It seems unlikely, however, that Ivan Head, leader of the Canadian delegation and Prime Minister Trudeau's principal foreign affairs adviser, would have initialed a document that he thought the cabinet would reject.

Moreover, the Indians conceded on most of the major points sought by the Canadians. To push the Indians further would be to risk termination of all future safeguards on the Rajasthan reactors. It is clear, however, that the opposition parties will be critical when the agreement goes to Parliament for ratification.

The head of the Indian Department of Atomic Energy recently told US officials that India has been conducting site surveys in preparation for a second test. India apparently intends to test again and may be in a position to do so after the 15 months have elapsed, or even earlier if the agreement is not ratified. [REDACTED]

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