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**INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT**

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

5 MAR 66

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COUNTRY CHINA

REPORT NO. [redacted]

SUBJECT RUMORS IN PEKING ABOUT COMMUNIST CHINA'S THIRD NUCLEAR TEST

DATE DISTR. 27 MARCH 1966

NO. PAGES 1

REFERENCES

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FIELD REPORT NO. [redacted]

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[redacted source information]

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1. CHINESE OFFICIALS IN PEKING HAVE MAINTAINED ABSOLUTE SILENCE ON THE ENTIRE SUBJECT OF A THIRD NUCLEAR TEST. THE PREVAILING MOOD AMONG THE [redacted] IN PEKING HOWEVER IS THAT TECHNICAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE TEST HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND THAT THE THIRD TEST IS IMMINENT.

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2. ALTHOUGH THE [redacted] HAS NOT OBSERVED A CHINESE MISSILE CAPABILITY, IT IS CERTAIN THAT SUCH EXISTS. SINCE THE SECOND NUCLEAR TEST WAS CONDUCTED FROM AN AIRPLANE, SPECULATION ON THE THIRD TEST IS THAT IT MAY BE CONDUCTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A MISSILE TEST.

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3. IT IS AN OPEN SECRET AMONG THE [redacted] THAT CHINESE COMMUNIST TECHNICIANS AT THE SITE OF THE SECOND TEST AS WELL AS INHABITANTS OF THE TAKLA MAKAN DESERT SUFFERED CASUALTIES AS A RESULT OF THE TEST. SOME OF THE CASUALTIES ARE REPORTEDLY IN HOSPITALS IN SHANGHAI, AND SOME INHABITANTS OF THE DESERT REPORTEDLY HAVE FLED TOWARD THE USSR. CONSEQUENTLY THERE IS SPECULATION THAT DELAY IN CONDUCTING THE THIRD TEST IS CAUSED BY CHINESE CONCERN OVER THESE MATTERS AND AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE TECHNOLOGY IN ORDER TO PREVENT FURTHER CASUALTIES.

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GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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