

(b) (1)
(b) (3)



Directorate of
Intelligence

Micro

~~Top Secret~~

CIA/SW - - - - SWDR 82-439J



APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2008

1 9 0 0

TOP SECRET

CONTENTS

12 OCTOBER 1982

1

[Redacted]

3

FRANCE: REACTIVATION OF NUCLEAR TEST SITE [Redacted]

Lack of space on Mururoa Atoll apparently is causing the French to reactivate Fangataufa Atoll as a test site, possibly for future tests of higher yield warheads; work on Fangataufa is progressing slowly. [Redacted]

5

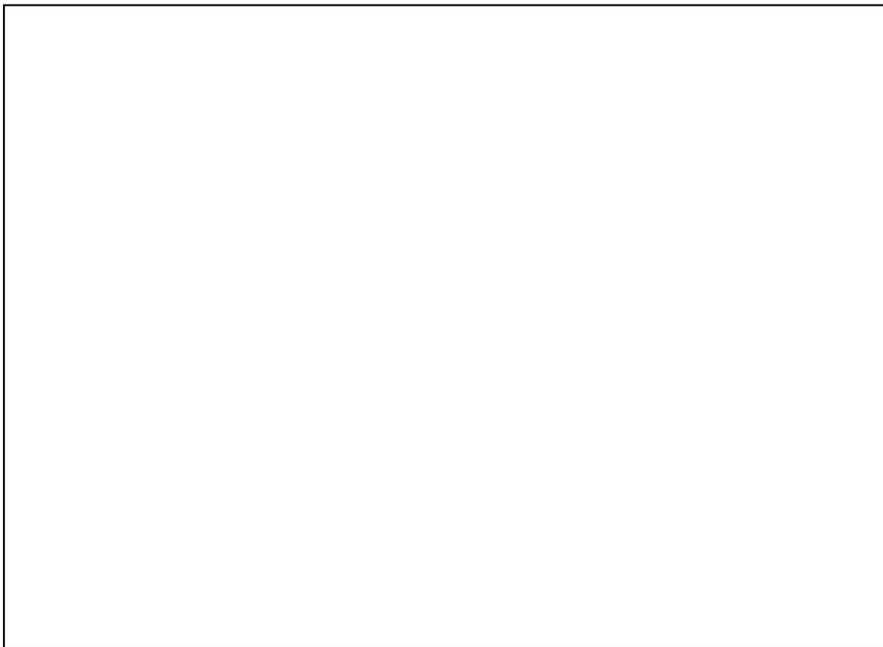
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

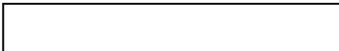
1

12 OCTOBER 1982
SW SWDR 82-433J

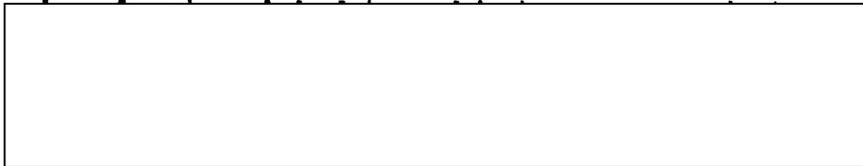
~~TOP SECRET~~



FRANCE: REACTIVATION OF NUCLEAR TEST SITE



Last December, the French Pacific Experimentation Center at Tahiti announced plans to reactivate the nuclear test site at the Fangataufa Atoll in the South Pacific. Fangataufa was to be used for underground nuclear explosions more powerful than those detonated at nearby Mururoa.



TOP SECRET

Comment:

The French nuclear test program could be hampered by a lack of testing space unless Fangataufa or some other site becomes available in the next several years.

Since Fangataufa is essentially unpopulated, its reactivation could accommodate some higher-yield tests, as well as provide extra room for more tests. Based on

Although it is not clear how soon the Fangataufa Atoll will be ready, it appears the reactivation is going to be a slow process. The project was officially announced last December, but road excavation did not begin until last month, and major dredging work will still be necessary to provide a shipping channel into the lagoon.

12 OCTOBER 1982
SW SWDR 82-433J