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# Indian Device Pakistanis Seek Assurances

The detonation occurred at a depth of slightly more than 100 meters and was completely contained, according to the chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. H. N. Sethna. Indian scientists who made an aerial survey over the area within 30 minutes of the blast reportedly detected no significant radioactivity.

Dr. Sethna also claimed that the device was developed entirely by India, and that all components, including the plutonium, were produced locally. The detonation utilized the "implosion" technique, a more sophisticated approach than the "gun assembly" method used by the US in the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Dr. Sethna was noncommittal when asked if any more tests were planned. The New Delhi press reported yesterday, however, that a series of nuclear explosions will be carried out.

Indian officials are said to have stated that the purpose would be to develop atomic devices for use in mining, canal construction, and the deepening and widening of ports.

They deny any intention to produce nuclear weapons.

India has probably had the technical ability and enough weapon-grade plutonium to detonate a nuclear device for a number of years.

Dr. Sethna said in



mid-1972 that India's AEC could conduct a test whenever New Delhi decided to go ahead.

The decision probably was made at this time to boost India's sagging international prestige and to divert public attention from mounting domestic problems. The Indian press has responded to the test with an outburst of enthusiasm and national pride.

### Implications for China

Peking's initial reaction was a terse, factual announcement broadcast by the New China News Agency domestic service some 24 hours after the test. Chinese spokesmen have thus far refused to make any comment.

China has much to sort out in formulating a substantive response. Peking has consistently maintained that its own nuclear capability is purely defensive and aimed solely at

breaking the nuclear monopoly of the "superpowers."

The Chinese have opposed nuclear arms limitations proposals, particularly the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty on the grounds that they contribute to this monopoly. Peking has refused, for example, to take a stand against France's development of independent nuclear capabilities pending an international agreement banning all nuclear weapons.

The Indian test, however, has direct security implications for China. Peking has long looked on New Delhi as a rival in Asia and relations between them cooled even further after India became a Soviet treaty partner in 1971.

#### Pakistani Reaction

In a hard-hitting public statement, Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto insisted Pakistan would never be intimidated by the threat created by India's nuclear capability. He said that Pakistan would attempt to secure political

assurances against India's use of nuclear weapons; the foreign secretary is being sent to China, France, and the UK, and he himself is raising the matter with Soviet leaders and officials in Canada.

The minister of state for foreign affairs and defense has been instructed to bring up the issue at the CENTO meeting in Washington and with US officials. Bhutto added that the possibility of a no-war pact proposed by India in 1971 is out of the question now because it would amount to capitulation to blackmail.

The Soviet news agency Tass cited the test as a "peaceful explosion" and said India was "striving to keep at the level of world technology in the peaceful uses of nuclear explosions."

The Japanese predictably are showing dismay. Tokyo papers have denounced the test, which the Japanese are likely to view as an unsettling factor in Asian affairs. [redacted]