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Director of Central Intelligence

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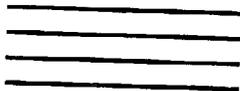


National Intelligence Daily

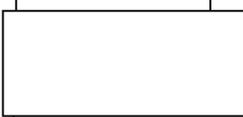
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China:

Future of Nuclear Testing at Lop Nur

[redacted] China may discontinue nuclear testing in 1996, *but its test program is already behind schedule and it is not likely that all planned tests can be completed by the start of that year. China's testing procedures and past efforts suggest that only four tests can be completed by the end of next year.* [redacted]

China's leaders remain committed to conduct enough tests to support strategic weapons development, and Beijing retains the option to test until a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty enters into force. Chinese leaders have publicly said this month that Beijing is under no obligation to suspend its nuclear testing.

— In May, however, the director of Chinese nuclear weapons research indicated [redacted] that China would continue to test through 1996 with a minimum number of tests unless some fail. [redacted]

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