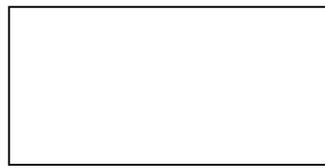


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Director of Central Intelligence



CIA CPAS NID 96-225CX

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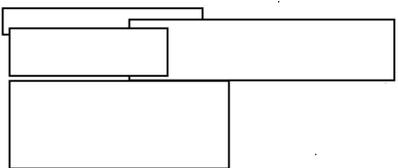


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Wednesday, 25 September 1996



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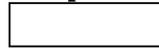
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EAST ASIA

China:

Planning Future Activities at Nuclear Test Site



Chinese treaty negotiators in Geneva have said that China, like the other declared nuclear powers, will use its nuclear test site to evaluate the safety and reliability of its nuclear weapons. The Chinese did not identify the activities that will be permitted under their moratorium on nuclear testing. *The moratorium, however, probably will not restrict test-site activities to the same degree as would a test ban treaty.*

- Chinese scientists are discussing future activities at an increased level of sophistication and may be preparing a reusable underground site for simulated underground nuclear tests,



China may proceed with previously planned activities in spite of the moratorium on nuclear testing.



- *China might be able to use existing underground cavities to conduct seismically undetectable tests as large as several kilotons. A reusable site probably would be designed for lower yields.*

