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XIA SSBN REACTOR START-UP/PROPULSION TRIALS
HULUDAO NAVAL BASE SHIPYARD AND PORT FACILITY, CHINA

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1. (SWN) SIGNIFICANCE: INITIAL REACTOR START-UP/PROPULSION TRIALS HAVE BEGUN ON THE XIA NUCLEAR-POWERED BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINE (SSBN).
 2. (SWN) REMARKS: VAPOR IS BEING EMITTED FROM THE MACHINERY SPACES, AND WATER IS CHURNING AFT OF THE VESSEL INDICATING THAT THE PROPELLER SHAFT IS TURNING. THE XIA REMAINS POSITIONED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DOCK WITH THE NUCLEAR SUBMARINE FITTING-OUT BARGE MOORED ALONG THE STARBOARD SIDE AND THE FOUR-TANK NUCLEAR SUBMARINE SUPPORT BARGE MOORED ON THE PORT SIDE. THIS ACTIVITY SUGGESTS THAT THE VESSEL MAY BE READY FOR INITIAL SEA TRIALS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. PREPARATIONS FOR REACTOR START-UP WERE FIRST OBSERVED [REDACTED]
 3. [REDACTED] COORDINATES 40-43-16N 120-59-26E
- COMMENTS AND QUERIES REGARDING THIS BRIEFING BOARD MAY BE DIRECTED [REDACTED]

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WARNING NOTICE
Intelligence Sources
and Methods Involved

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