

~~Top Secret~~ [redacted]

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Approved for Release  
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# THE 18 MAY 1974 INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST

[redacted]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

MAR 1998

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

On 18 May 1974 India successfully detonated a nuclear device underground in the Rajasthan Desert. peaceful purposes.

[redacted]

The device itself was entirely an Indian effort with the plutonium being produced in the Canadian-supplied CIRUS reactor from Indian uranium and recovered in India's own fuel reprocessing plant at Trombay. The Indians, as expected, announced the test as being for

## DISCUSSION

[redacted]

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Mrs. Gandhi's program to develop a nuclear device was a well kept secret, and the test took the world by surprise on 18 May 1974. Within hours after the test, which took place underground at 0805 hours New Delhi time, a news conference was held by Dr. Sethna who announced that India had carried out an underground nuclear explosion for peaceful purposes in western India. He said the plutonium implosion device was set off at a depth of over 100 meters but was fully contained and no radioactivity was vented.

The nuclear device used plutonium as the fissile material. [redacted]  
The plutonium used had been produced in the CIRUS [redacted]

[REDACTED] reactor at Trombay and was recovered in the fuel reprocessing plant located there.

[REDACTED] The reactor was supplied by Canada with the understanding that it would be used only for peaceful purposes. The Indians take the position that this agreement was upheld because the device tested was for peaceful purposes. The Canadians however, have maintained that the use of plutonium produced in the CIRUS reactor for any explosion, peaceful or otherwise, would be a violation of this agreement.