

Attachment To
National Security Decision Memorandum

Subject: Procedures for Public Release of Information Concerning
Foreign Nuclear Tests

I. Public release of information concerning foreign nuclear tests shall be handled in either a "routine" or a "non-routine" manner depending upon the nature of the test. Soviet and Communist Chinese tests which meet the criteria set forth in Section II will usually be classified as "routine". All other Soviet and Communist Chinese tests and all tests by other countries will be regarded as "non-routine".

A. In the case of foreign tests to be treated in a "routine" manner, a statement in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Section III will be released to the press by the Atomic Energy Commission at a time not earlier than three hours after the issuance of the Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee's (JAEIC) statement to the interested agencies, unless that statement includes a recommendation against public release.

[Circumstances such as preannouncement or immediate post-announcement by the foreign country conducting the test, may dictate a delay shorter or longer than three hours.]

B. During this three-hour period, the White House and/or interested agencies shall notify the Atomic Energy Commission of any objections to or suggested variations in the standard content of the release.

The release will be handled as a "non-routine" case if any objections or suggested variations in the content of the release are raised.

C. In the case of all foreign tests to be treated in a "non-routine" manner, the Atomic Energy Commission, in coordination with the other interested agencies, will prepare recommendations concerning a public release and the content thereof for specific White House approval as authorized by the President.

- II. As part of its report to concerned agencies on a foreign nuclear test, the JAEIC will recommend whether or not a test should be regarded as "routine" or "non-routine". If "non-routine", the JAEIC statement will indicate the reasons for the classification.

The following are considered to be "routine" unless otherwise specified by the JAEIC:

- A. Soviet underground nuclear explosions with these parameters

<u>Location</u>	<u>Yield</u>
Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site	20-500 KT
Novaya Zemlya Nuclear Test Site	20-1500 KT
Any other Soviet land area	20-100 KT

- B. Communist Chinese nuclear explosions with these parameters

<u>Location</u>	<u>Yield</u>
Atmospheric Test in the Lop Nor Area	20-5000 KT
Underground Test in the Lop Nor Area	20-100 KT

- III. Standard formats for the public release on "routine" tests will include the following information:

- A. Testing country/date/approximate time
Approximate location
Test environment
Yield range expressed as 20-200 KT, 200-1000 KT, or greater than 1 MT
Amplifying remarks based upon previously released information
- B. All public release announcements on Soviet or Communist Chinese underground events will include the general qualification that recorded seismic signals are "presumably from an underground nuclear explosion".