

17 February 1960

FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS

I. France can be expected to continue nuclear weapons fabrication and testing.

25X1B6d

A.

1. French have allowed impression to circulate that shot was about 20 kilotons by saying test was about same size as first US bomb.

B. One or two additional atmospheric tests will probably be conducted before Khrushchev's arrival in Paris 15 March.

C. Practicality of underground testing as follow up to present test series under investigation.

1. At present France lacks underground test measuring instruments.

2. However, pressure of unfavorable international reaction to atmospheric tests may accelerate decision to change over to underground testing.

D. Plutonium on hand to complete initial test series.

1. Present plutonium production facilities able to add about

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E. Expansion of gaseous diffusion plant now under construction could provide highly enriched U-235 for production of advanced nuclear and thermonuclear weapons by 1965.

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X

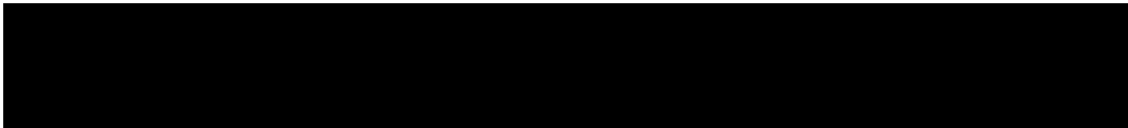
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- II. International reaction ranges from violent opposition of Africans and many Asians to cool "no comment" from some western allies.
- A. Western reactions slight with only Chancellor Adenauer noting improved western defense posture.
 - B. Moscow's reaction suggests it will not revoke 29 August pledge not to resume tests unless "western powers" do so.
 - C. In Africa, Ghana in vanguard of those pushing for extreme retaliatory measures.
 - 1. Prime Minister Nkrumah announced that, as first step, he was freezing assets of French companies in Ghana pending determination of effects of test program on population. *(About \$14 million equivalent)*
 - 2. Ghana reportedly has pressed Liberia and Guinea to agree to coordinated severance of diplomatic relations with Paris.
 - 3. Ghana's controlled press continuing violent campaign of incitement against France and also against US and UK. US accused of "hypocrisy," said to be "now washing guilty hands."
 - D. Morocco and UAR, supported by Tunisia and Ghana, apparently pushing within Asian-African group at UN for either early Security Council meeting or special General Assembly session.

1. Asians, however, reported cool to either alternative and Africans themselves appear uncertain as to appropriate tactics and goal.
2. Morocco has called home its ambassador in Paris and announced abrogation of 1956 accord with France providing for diplomatic cooperation.
3. Morocco and Tunisia can be expected attempt use anti-bomb test sentiment to bolster their campaigns for full evacuation French forces.

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E.



- F. In Indonesia strong press reaction indicates government would be under considerable pressure to participate in any joint action against the French which may develop within Afro-Asian framework.