



Director of Central Intelligence

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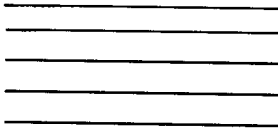
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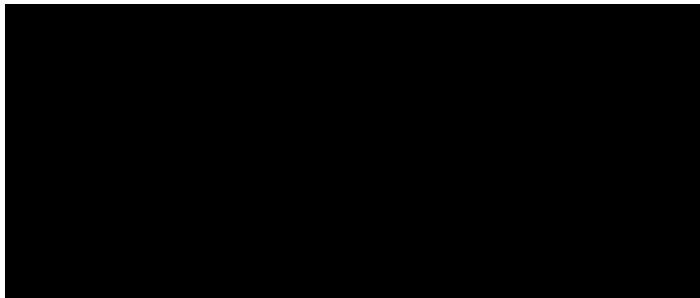
# National Intelligence Daily

CIA/PASS ... NID 98-119CX

Thursday, 21 May 1998



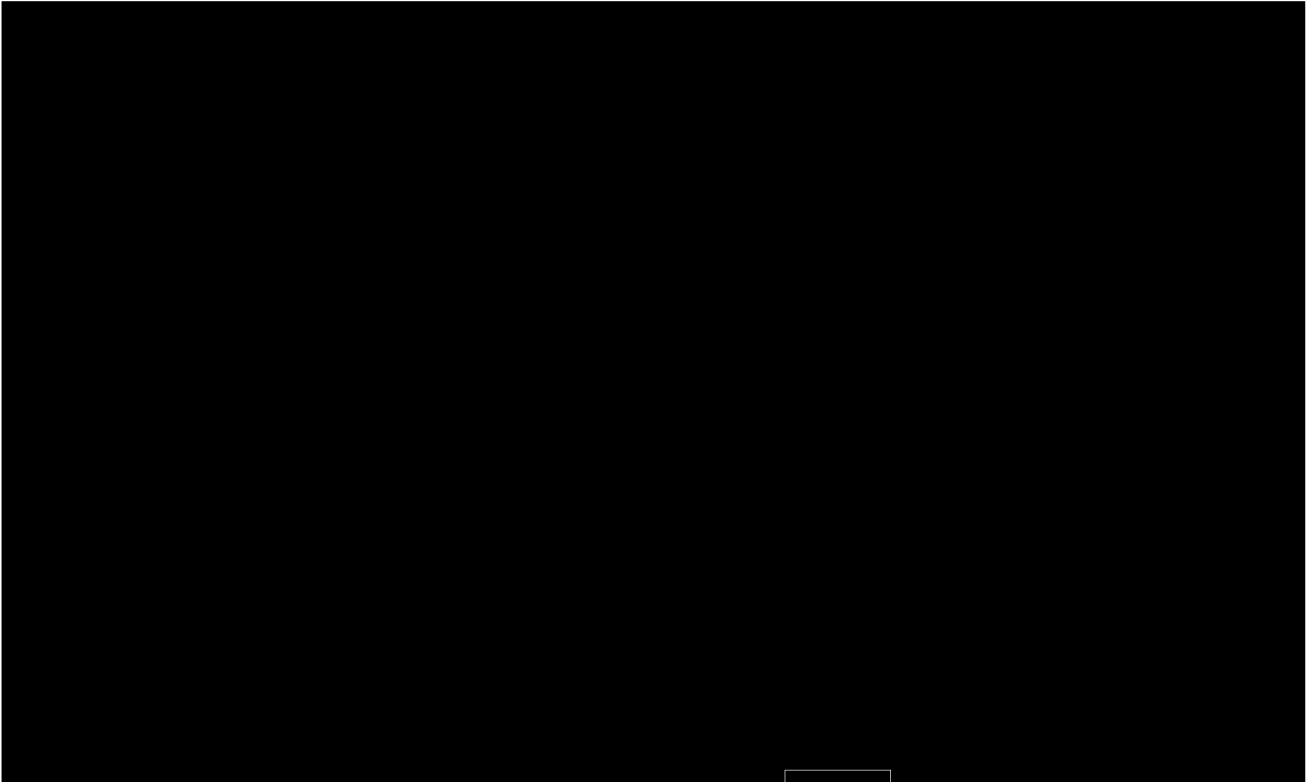
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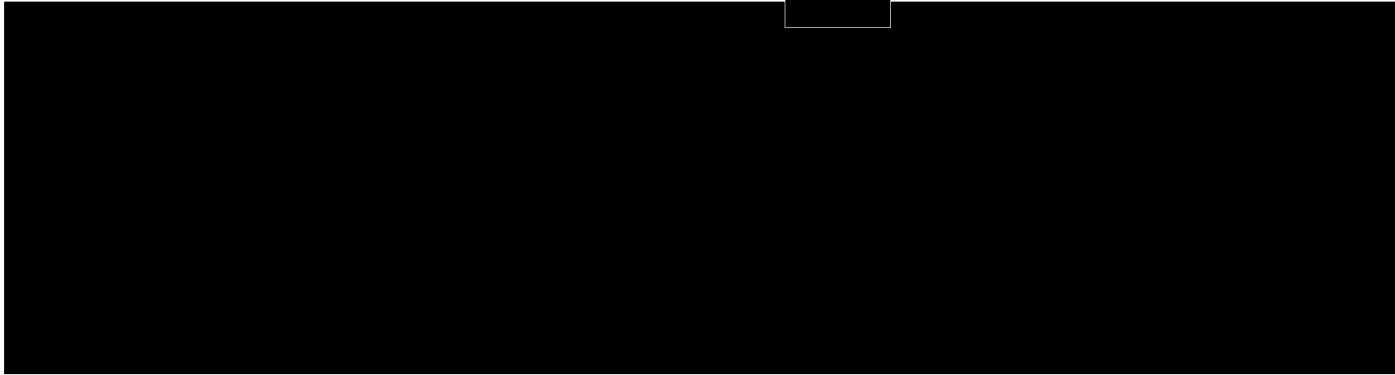
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INDIA: BJP's Optic on the World



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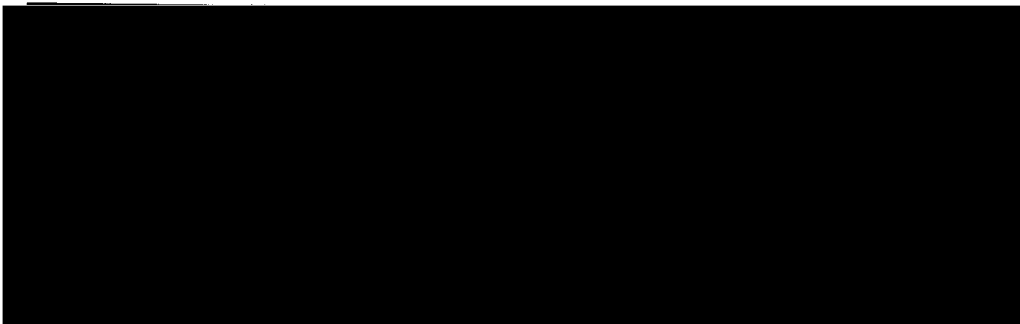
**INDIA:**

**BJP's Optic on the World** [REDACTED]

Hindu nationalists in the Bharatiya Janata Party—according to their literature and election manifesto—envision a world order in which India's unique civilization has a place at center stage alongside Western, Chinese, and other great civilizations. The BJP openly seeks a subcontinent united by Indian culture and expects deference from India's neighbors, including Pakistan.

- In keeping with its view of Indian history, the BJP does not advocate pursuing an expansionist policy beyond the subcontinent.
- Nor does the BJP seek religious converts but rails against those "Indians"—Muslims and Christians, in particular—who reject Hindu cultural unity. [REDACTED]

Hindu nationalists publicly insist that India's regional primacy be asserted vigorously, and they bitterly oppose attempts by external powers—the US and China in particular—to alter the Delhi-centric balance of power in the subcontinent. The BJP probably calculates that demonstrating its nuclear prowess and bending its neighbors to its will should earn India world power status and a permanent UN Security Council seat. [REDACTED]



**The RSS Role** [REDACTED]

For grassroots political support, the BJP has long relied on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh—India's largest Hindu cultural organization—which, in turn, relies on the BJP to keep Hindu nationalism on the front burner as a political issue. The RSS has more than 2 million members and operates hundreds of charity organizations, hospitals, schools, and more than 30,000 training centers that indoctrinate young boys in its philosophy.

- Vajpayee, Home Minister Advani, and party president Thakre all came up through the RSS and are responsive to its views. [REDACTED]

The BJP's election manifesto reflects the RSS agenda for remaking Indian society in its image. In addition to uniting the subcontinent culturally, it calls for limiting special provisions for India's 120 million Muslims and rebuilding a controversial Hindu temple on the site of a mosque destroyed by Hindu hardliners in 1992. [REDACTED]

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*The draft declaration EU foreign ministers take up on Monday would urge India to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, to implement tight nuclear technology export controls, and to refrain from deploying assembled nuclear devices, [REDACTED] Further measures may be considered later, but US diplomats suggest few EU members favor more concrete action. [REDACTED]*

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