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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: OCT 2003

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CIA/CPAS --- NID 93-157JX ---



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CPAS NID 93-157JX

8 July 1993

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Notes

China:

: Response on Moratorium Noncommittal

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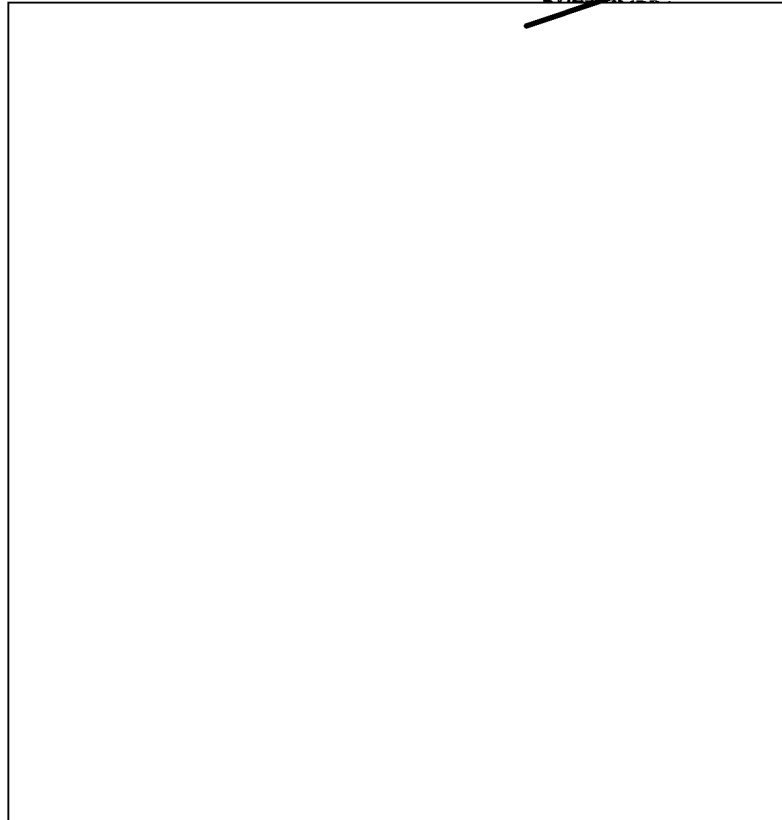
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In Brief

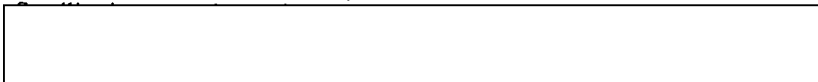
Special Analysis

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~~Top Secret~~**CHINA: Response on Moratorium Noncommittal**

Beijing has reacted to Washington's announcement of a nuclear testing moratorium by reiterating that it supports a nuclear test ban in the framework of the complete prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons. [redacted] The Chinese did not, however, indicate whether they would observe the moratorium.



Comment: Chinese officials may have been surprised, but Beijing's response is consistent with its previous statements that China, as the country with the smallest and least advanced nuclear force, still needs nuclear tests. Although differing views may exist, the consensus in Beijing probably remains that China should continue testing unless unexpected international repercussions develop. China has planned seven nuclear tests, including testing for new SLBM and ICBM warheads, by 1996, the suggested deadline for every nuclear power to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. [redacted]

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