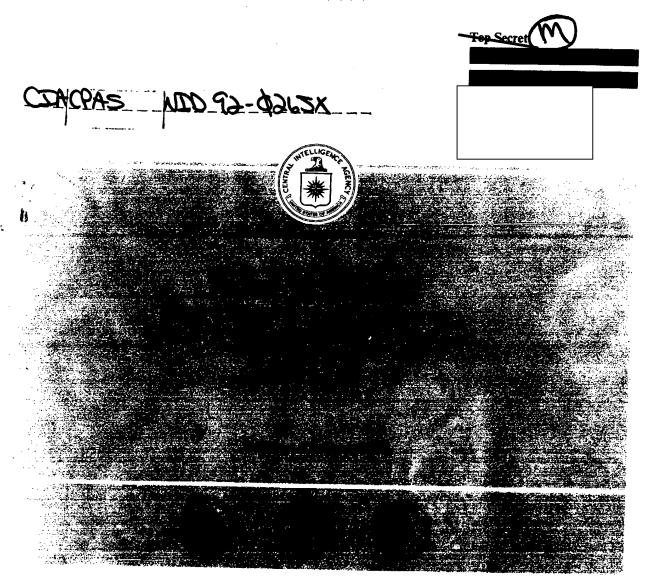
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE: MAY 2004

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NORTH KOREA:	Increased Nuclear-Related Activity
	North Korea has tested a high explosive and may be preparing to operate its reprocessing complex, developments that suggest Pyongyang is moving forward with its nuclear weapons programs.
	P'yongyang recently conducted its first
	high-explosive test since 1988;
}	
	North Korea on Thursday signed the IAEA safeguards agreement and privately indicated to IAEA officials that it would ratify the accord within two months. In a meeting with the South on Wednesday, however, the North refused to discuss Scoul's proposal for mutual trial inspections until after the North-South nuclear agreement takes effect in two weeks.
	Comment: The activity at Yongbyon suggests the North may be trying to complete its nuclear weapons program before inspections begin; it may also have no intention of allowing inspections. suggest nuclear-related testing, and
	indicate
	Pyongyang may be preparing for cold testing of the plant with nonirradiated fuel. CIA, DIA-