

DECLASSIFIED		NND 959000		NARA Date 6/19/96	
3/5-27		DEPARTMENT OF STATE		DEF 12-1 CHIRDM XR INF 8	
AIRGRAM		CONFIDENTIAL		FOR RM USE ONLY	
CA-49		NO		HANDLING INDICATOR	
TO		BANGKOK, CANBERRA, COLOMBO, DJAKARTA, HONG KONG, KARACHI, KUALA LUMPUR, MANILA, NEW DELHI, PHNOM PENH, RANGOON, SAIGON, SEOUL, SINGAPORE, TAIWAN, TOKYO, VIENTIANNE, WELLINGTON, CINCPAC (POLAD), CINCEUR (POLAD), CINCELM (POLAD)			
FROM		Department of State-USIA-Department of Defense			
SUBJECT		Status of Program to Influence World Opinion with Respect to a Chinese Communist Nuclear Detonation			
REF		CA-5497, November 17, 1962 CA-715, July 19, 1963			
I. BACKGROUND:					
1. An inter-departmental program to minimize the psychological impact of a Chinese Communist nuclear detonation was initiated in the fall of 1962. The Department's CA-5497 of November 17, 1962, set forth the basic concept of the program, including the public position and rationale to be taken by U.S. officials in the predetonation period.					
2. The Department's CA-715 of July 19, 1963, set forth revised guidelines for discussing this subject, as well as up-to-date intelligence estimates of Communist Chinese nuclear capabilities. This paper included guidance which U.S. officials could use in general discussion of this subject, as well as specific statements concerning what a Chinese Communist detonation <u>does not mean</u> and what it <u>may mean</u> . It also outlined a comprehensive Educative Program prepared by the Department of Defense geared to explain to selected audiences in private the wide range of subjects from the basics to the complexities of nuclear development.					
3. During the past year, basic indoctrination material was sent to selected posts to be used in the Educative Program. Where local conditions were considered appropriate programs were					
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Directed by: M - White: fjm 6/26/64		Consent and Classification Approved by: M - William J. Jordan			
Clearances: S/AL-Amb. Thompson P-Mr. Lisle INR-Mr. Evans NEA-Mr. Lee PE-Mr. Galt		DOD/ISA-Mr. Carroll S/P-Mr. Johnson USIA-Mr. Anderson SOV-Mr. Guthrie			
ACDA-Mr. Halla G/IE-Mr. Muller S/S - Mr. Davies		(clearances in draft)			

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were carried out by certain posts which included the use of printed material, visual aids, and qualified lecturers.

II. Chinese Communist and Soviet References to Subject During the Past Year

During the past year several references have been made to Chinese Communist nuclear capability and intentions from both Chinese Communist and Soviet sources. In view of the conflicting nature of these references, they are listed chronologically in Attachment "A" to this Airgram.

III. Current Estimate of Communist Nuclear Capability

Our estimate of prospects for development of Chinese Communist nuclear capability remains as set forth in CA-715: i.e., that a test could occur at any time, but that it may not occur until late 1964 or early 1965. (FYI: This estimate may be reviewed in course of summer, but as of this date it still considered valid.)

IV. Coordinated Information Policy by NATO Countries

Steps currently being taken to arrange coordinated information policy of this subject by NATO countries. Guidelines will follow same general principles set forth in CA's under reference. They will probably be developed in NATO Political Advisers Committee in near future. In this connection, Embassy London represented at meeting on May 7, 1964, at British Foreign Office at which were present representatives of Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand High Commissions to discuss overt and covert programs re Chinese nuclear tests. Meeting reflected degree of coordination that has already taken place between governments involved as evidenced by similarity themes used, regardless of where they were prepared.

V. Action Requested

Now that interdepartmental program has been in effect two years along broad lines, interested Washington agencies wish receive specific information on following subjects:

1. To what extent is there general public awareness of this subject?
2. Are there any strata of society, either geographic or social, in area of responsibility that are unaware of possibility of Chinese Communist nuclear detonation?

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3. What

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3. What is attitude of local officials on necessity general awareness this subject?
4. What is the attitude likely to be among informed elements?
5. What additional material does post require to meet the responsibility of this program effectively?

In view of necessity for a high degree of coordination, Chiefs of Mission, in consultation with their country teams, are requested to review this general subject at earliest convenience and submit brief answers to foregoing questions together with any other comments on the subject.

Attachment:

RUSK

A.

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