

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SECRET/RESTRICTED DATA-

L <u>INFORMATION</u> March 13, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM:

Phil Odeen

SUBJEÇT:

Observation of 1972 French Nuclear Tests

Secretary Laird has sent you a self-explanatory memorandum (Tab A) informing you that DOD plans to observe and collect weapons effects data from the three French nuclear weapons tests scheduled during May-August 1972. Two aircraft and a ship will be involved. The operation will be similar to that of last year. A request for final approval will be submitted in the routine manner with the April Reconnaissance Book.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

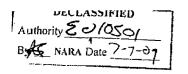
NLN CO-O(/IS per ISCAP Gr. May 1, 2009

By Sk NARA, Date May 20, 2009

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

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MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

SUBJECT: Weapon Effects Data Collection from 1972 French Nuclear Tests

As in the last French nuclear atmospheric test series, DoD is planning to acquire weapon effects data from their tests late this spring. Intelligence indicates there will be three French nuclear detonations at their Pacific Test Facilities in the May through August time frame.

Observation of these events on a unilateral basis can provide radar data of great importance in assessing the performance of hardsite ballistic defense radar designs in a battle environment. Additionally, nuclear test sensors being developed for the 647 satellites can be calibrated.

The Director of the Defense Nuclear Agency (DNA) will be the technical coordinator for the collection effort. Operational direction will be exercised by the JCS Joint Reconnaissance Center as during previous (NICE DOG) operations. Two aircraft and a range tracking ship have been designated as the scientific collection platforms. The Defense Nuclear Agency code name for the scientific effort is DIAL FLOWER.

The observations will be conducted independently of the French, except for flight safety considerations, and are therefore consistent with our obligations under the LTBT.

A request for final approval of NICE DOG/DIAL FLOWER will be submitted in the routine manner by the Joint Reconnaissance Center with the April Reconnaissance Book. This request will contain the operational and technical details associated with the collection operation.

ATOMIC ENTERPY ACT 1854

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