

FF225

B-WIRE

25-JUN-87 22:39

E/W- CHINA PROTESTS OVER U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS CRITICISM

PEKING, JUNE 25, REUTER - CHINA ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF GROSS INTERFERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS TODAY AFTER CRITICISM IN CONGRESS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN TIBET AND IN CHINA AS A WHOLE.

THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY QUOTED A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN AS VOICING "STRONG INDIGNATION AND RESENTMENT" AT THE CRITICISM EXPRESSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE HOUSE PASSED A STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORISATION BILL ON TUESDAY AND SENT IT TO THE SENATE FOR ACTION. IT CONTAINED TWO AMENDMENTS REGARDING CHINA.

ONE CALLED ON CHINA'S LEADERS TO "TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TOWARD ESTABLISHING A MORE DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, WITH A FREE AND OPEN POLITICAL SYSTEM THAT WILL PROTECT THE ESSENTIAL HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE LIVING WITHIN THAT COUNTRY."

THE OTHER AMENDMENT ACCUSED CHINA OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN TIBET AND ORDERED THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO REPORT WITHIN 60 DAYS TO CONGRESS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION THERE.

THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE SOLEMN REPRESENTATIONS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THE ISSUE.

"THE TWO AMENDMENTS ... ARE A SERIOUS DISTORTION OF THE TRUE SITUATION IN CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, THUS HURTING THE FEELINGS OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

CHINA IS ACUTELY SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM OF ITS POLICIES IN TIBET, WHERE EXILE GROUPS SAY THOUSANDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS REMAIN IN JAILS AND LABOUR CAMPS. PEKING DENIES HAVING ANY POLITICAL PRISONERS.

IN 1985 THE UNITED STATES BEGAN WITHHOLDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES, WHICH SUPPORTS PEKING'S FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM, FOLLOWING REPORTS THAT CHINA WAS FORCING WOMEN TO HAVE ABORTIONS.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATION, HAS VOICED CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPRISONMENT OF CHINESE FOR PEACEFULLY EXERCISING THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HAS POINTED TO THE JAILING OF PRIESTS ON CHARGES OF MAINTAINING LINKS WITH THE VATICAN.

THE OFFICIAL CHINA NEWS SERVICE LATE LAST YEAR QUOTED A TOP CHINESE LEGAL OFFICIAL AS CONDEMNING WHAT HE CALLED A GROWING TREND TO TORTURE CRIMINAL SUSPECTS.

ZHANG SIQING, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE SUPREME PEOPLE'S PROCURATORATE, WHICH IS A WATCHDOG OVER CHINESE COURTS, SAID INCREASING NUMBERS OF CHINESE WERE BEING TORTURED TO FORCE CONFESSIONS AND SOME HAD BEEN INJURED OR KILLED.

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FF200

B-WIRE

26-JUN-87 21:31

ASIA - CHINA WARNING U.S. OVER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION ACCUSATIONS

(W/CN-37)

BEIJING, JUNE 26 (UPI)--THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WARNED THE UNITED STATES OF THE "SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES" OF TWO AMENDMENTS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHICH ACCUSE BEIJING OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, XINHUA NEWS AGENCY SAID TODAY.

XINHUA SAID CHINA LODGED ITS "STRONG OBJECTION" TO THE AMENDMENTS IN A MEETING TUESDAY BETWEEN TANG SHUBEI, MINISTER OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY, AND U.S. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM CLARK.

THE AMENDMENTS, WHICH WERE PASSED BY THE HOUSE ON JUNE 18 IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1988-89 STATE DEPARTMENT BUDGET AUTHORIZATION BILL, ACCUSED CHINA OF SUPPRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS AND IMPOSING ITS RULE OVER TIBET BY MILITARY FORCE.

THE SENATE HAS NOT YET APPROVED THE AMENDMENTS.

"TANG SHUBEI DEMANDED THAT THE UNITED STATES TAKE MEASURES TO DIMINISH THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF THE AMENDMENTS AND PREVENT SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE," XINHUA SAID.

ON THURSDAY, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN BEIJING ACCUSED THE HOUSE OF "GROSS INTERFERENCE" IN CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

XINHUA SAID TANG WROTE TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON JUNE 17 SAYING THE TIBET AMENDMENT, SPONSORED BY REP. CHARLIE ROSE, "GROSSLY VIOLATES CHINA'S SOVEREIGN RIGHTS AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND RUNS COUNTER TO THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ITSELF."

THE LETTER NOTED "THE FACT THAT TIBET IS PART OF CHINA IS UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE WORLD," INCLUDING WASHINGTON.

TANG SAID THE TIBET AMENDMENT, WHICH STATES THAT 1 MILLION NATIVES OF THE HIMALAYAN REGION HAVE DIED SINCE THE CHINESE ANNEXATION IN 1951 AS A RESULT OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY, FAMINE AND IMPRISONMENT, CONTAINS "FABRICATED STORIES."

THE LETTER SAID CHINA ENDED SERFDOM IN TIBET, AND TIBETANS "NOW LIVE AS TRUE HUMAN BEINGS, WITH THEIR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS BEING STEADILY EXPANDED."

IN THE PRE-1951 SOCIETY, HE SAID, SERFS COULD BE "TORTURED AND BUTCHERED AT THEIR MASTER'S WHIM."

XINHUA DID NOT SAY WHETHER TANG RESPONDED SPECIFICALLY TO THE CHARGES THAT TIBETANS ARE BEING IMPRISONED AND KILLED FOR THEIR RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL BELIEFS AND THAT TIBETANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT AN ALLEGED LARGE-SCALE INFLUX OF ETHNIC CHINESE SETTLERS.

CHINA'S PROTEST OVER THE AMENDMENTS IS THE STRONGEST AGAINST THE UNITED STATES SINCE AUGUST LAST YEAR WHEN BEIJING ACCUSED WASHINGTON OF INTERFERING IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS BY CUTTING OFF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE U.N. FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES BECAUSE OF ALLEGED COERCION IN BEIJING'S BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAM.

ALSO FRIDAY, XINHUA QUOTED FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, WHO IS VISITING TIBET AS PART OF A WEEK-LONG TOUR OF CHINA, AS SAYING THAT HE WAS "HAPPY" TO HEAR FROM LOCAL OFFICIALS THAT FREEDOM OF RELIGION IS GUARANTEED IN THE REGION.

WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT KOHL IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT TIBET NEXT MONTH, THE FIRST FOREIGN HEAD OF STATE TO DO SO SINCE THE CHINESE TAKEOVER.

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FF171

B-WIRE

25-JUN-87 18:55

WORLD-- BEIJING PROTESTS U.S. AMENDMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA

BEIJING, JUNE 25 (UPI) -- CHINA ACCUSED THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THURSDAY OF "GROSS INTERFERENCE" IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS BY ACCUSING BEIJING OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND CALLING FOR MORE DEMOCRACY IN THE COMMUNIST NATION.

A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID BEIJING HAS INSTRUCTED THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO MAKE "SOLEMN REPRESENTATIONS" TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THE AMENDMENTS, WHICH WERE PASSED BY THE HOUSE JUNE 18 IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET AUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION.

THE SENATE HAS NOT YET APPROVED THE AMENDMENTS.

"THOSE TWO AMENDMENTS ARE A SERIOUS DISTORTION OF THE TRUE SITUATION IN CHINA AND CONSTITUTE A GROSS INTERFERENCE IN CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, THUS HURTING THE FEELINGS OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID. "WE HEREBY EXPRESS OUR STRONG INDIGNATION AND RESENTMENT AT THIS."

ONE OF THE AMENDMENTS SAID CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH, THE PRESS AND PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY "HAVE NOT BEEN RESPECTED" IN CHINA AND CALLED ON BEIJING TO "TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TOWARD ESTABLISHING A MORE DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY."

"THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS TO TRAVEL FREELY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH FOREIGNERS, TO FORM TRADE UNIONS AND OTHER VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS ARE SEVERELY CURTAILED," THE AMENDMENT SAID.

THE OTHER AMENDMENT SAID CHINA "IMPOSED ITS RULE OVER TIBET THROUGH MILITARY FORCE IN 1949 AND CONTINUES TO EXERCISE DOMINION OVER THE TIBETAN PEOPLE THROUGH THE PRESENCE OF A LARGE OCCUPATION FORCE."

IT SAID MORE THAN 1 MILLION NATIVES OF THE HIMALAYAN REGION HAVE DIED SINCE 1949 "AS A DIRECT RESULT OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY, IMPRISONMENT AND WIDESCALE FAMINE."

THE HOUSE ALSO SAID AN "IRREPLACEABLE NATIONAL LEGACY OF ART AND CIVILIZATION" HAS BEEN STOLEN OR REMOVED FROM TIBET AND TIBETANS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF CHINA'S POLICY OF ENCOURAGING LARGE NUMBERS OF ETHNIC CHINESE TO SETTLE IN TIBET.

THE AMENDMENT ALSO DESCRIBED AS "CREDIBLE" REPORTS BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL THAT TIBETANS ARE BEING IMPRISONED AND KILLED FOR THEIR RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL BELIEFS.

IT SAID THERE IS "NO EVIDENCE" BEIJING HAS HEEDED A 1981 CALL BY 91 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO GRANT CONSIDERATION TO THE "VERY REASONABLE AND JUSTIFIED ASPIRATIONS" OF THE DALAI LAMA OF TIBET.

THE DALAI LAMA, THE TRADITIONAL HIGH PRIEST OF THE TIBETAN PEOPLE, HAS LIVED IN INDIA SINCE AN ABORTIVE TIBETAN UPRISING IN 1959. HIS "GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE" CALLS FOR GREATER AUTONOMY FOR TIBET.

CHINA'S PROTEST OVER THE AMENDMENTS COMES LESS THAN ONE MONTH BEFORE WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT KOHL IS DUE TO VISIT TIBET, THE FIRST FOREIGN HEAD OF STATE TO DO SO SINCE 1949.

DS/

INDIANAPOLIS, SEPT. 1 (SPECIAL/WINTER) - A CHINESE MUSLIM ATTENDING THE FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA SAYS A MUSLIM RELIGIOUS REVIVAL IS TAKING PLACE IN HIS COUNTRY AND THAT THE FUTURE LOOKS "PROMISING."

ALI JING JIANG, A LANGUAGE TEACHER AT HEBEA UNIVERSITY OUTSIDE PEKING, SAID IN AN RFE/RL THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS RELAXED ITS POLICY ON RELIGION AND MILLIONS OF CHINESE MUSLIMS ARE NOW ABLE TO PRACTICE ISLAM.

JIANG SAID HIS PRESENCE IN INDIANAPOLIS IS ONE SIGN OF THE NEW FREEDOMS. HE SAID THAT FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, CHINESE ISLAMIC SCHOLARS HAVE INCREASINGLY BEEN ALLOWED TO EXPAND THEIR INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS AND PROVIDE LIVING PROOF TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD THAT MUSLIMS EXIST IN CHINA, A MARKED CHANGE FROM THE PREVIOUS OFFICIAL ATTITUDE.

JIANG SAID THERE HAVE BEEN MUSLIMS IN CHINA FOR MORE THAN 1,000 YEARS, AND THAT THE FIRST CHINESE MOSQUE WAS BUILT IN THE 8TH CENTURY. THE FIRST MUSLIMS WERE PROBABLY IMMIGRANTS FROM WESTERN ASIA.

"WE HAVE KEPT OUR ISLAMIC CULTURE, WHICH IS REGARDED AS A FOREIGN CULTURE," HE SAID. "WE USE A LOT OF ARABIC."

JIANG SAID MUSLIM FUNERAL AND WEDDING TRADITIONS, THE ISLAMIC NAMES THEY GIVE THEIR CHILDREN AND THE CLOTHES THEY WEAR SETS THEM APART FROM THE REST OF SOCIETY. "PEOPLE LOOK ON US AS SOMETHING FOREIGN," HE SAID, "AND WE LIKE THAT." HE SAID BEING REGARDED AS A SEPARATE MINORITY HAS HELPED MUSLIMS MAINTAIN THEIR SENSE OF IDENTITY.

CHINESE MUSLIMS THINK OF THEMSELVES AS A SINGLE GROUP, UNITED BY THEIR BELIEF IN ISLAM, JIANG SAID. OFFICIALLY, HOWEVER, THEY ARE DIVIDED INTO TEN MINORITY GROUPS, DIFFERENTIATED ACCORDING TO LANGUAGE, ETHNIC ORIGIN AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION.

JIANG SAID CHINESE MUSLIMS TEND TO CLUSTER TOGETHER IN LARGE CONCENTRATIONS, MAINTAINING SEPARATE COMMUNITIES, AND THAT THERE IS A SIZEABLE ISLAMIC COMMUNITY OF ABOUT 180,000 IN THE PEKING AREA.

HE SAID NO ONE KNOWS HOW MANY MUSLIMS THERE ARE ALTOGETHER IN CHINA. THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FIGURE IS 14 MILLION, BUT THAT STATISTIC HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED FOR 35 YEARS. JIANG SAID THERE WERE AN ESTIMATED 40 MILLION MUSLIMS IN CHINA BEFORE THE COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, AND THAT FOREIGN ISLAMIC SCHOLARS BELIEVE THIS IS ROUGHLY THE SIZE OF THE CHINESE MUSLIM POPULATION TODAY.

HE SAID MUSLIMS SUFFERED GREAT HARDSHIPS DURING THE 1960S AND 1970S WHEN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION WAS IN FULL SWING. THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO WORSHIP, AND ALL MOSQUES WERE CLOSED. MANY WERE RAZED TO THE GROUND. ONLY ONE MOSQUE, IN PEKING WAS ALLOWED TO REMAIN OPEN -- AND THAT WAS FOR FOREIGNERS.

JIANG SAID MUSLIMS WERE SUBJECTED TO ANTI-RELIGIOUS INDOCTRINATION, ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL AREAS. THEY WERE REQUIRED TO RAISE PIGS AND THEIR CHILDREN WERE FORCED TO EAT PORK IN SCHOOL. "THAT SOMETIMES LED TO BLOODSHED AND STRUGGLE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORCES," HE SAID.

BUT HE SAID MUSLIMS CONTINUED TO ADHERE TO THEIR FAITH AND OFTEN WENT TO PRAY AMONG THE RUINS OF THEIR MOSQUES. "FOR 1,000 YEARS IT WAS ALL RIGHT," HE SAID. "WE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WAS SUDDENLY WRONG."

JIANG SAID THAT IN RECENT YEARS "THE GOVERNMENT HAS TRIED TO REACH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING WITH OUR PEOPLE AND WE FEEL THE SITUATION IS MUCH BETTER FOR MUSLIMS."

HE SAID CHINA'S MUSLIMS CAN PRACTICE THEIR FAITH AGAIN AND EVEN GET CERTAIN PRIVILEGES. IN AREAS WHERE FOOD IS RATIONED, HE SAID, MUSLIMS RECEIVE ISLAMIC COUPONS FOR LAMB AND BEEF. THEY GET PAID LEAVE FROM WORK TO CELEBRATE ISLAMIC HOLIDAYS. JIANG SAID MUSLIMS ARE ALSO EXEMPTED FROM A REGULATION REQUIRING CREMATION AND ARE PERMITTED TO BURY THEIR DEAD.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO RELAXED CONTROLS CONCERNING ANOTHER TENET OF THE ISLAMIC FAITH -- THE ANNUAL HAJJ, OR PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA. IN RECENT YEARS, ONLY ONE SMALL GROUP OF 12 TO 15 PERSONS CAREFULLY SELECTED BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO GO

## ASIA - (1) CHINESE MUSLIMS ENJOY NEW FREEDOMS

JIANG SAID THAT LAST YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT ANYONE WHO COULD PAY HIS OWN WAY WAS FREE TO MAKE THE PILGRIMAGE AND THAT ABOUT 1,000 MUSLIMS DID SO.

THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IS RESTORING SOME OLD MOSQUES AND BUILDING NEW ONES. JIANG SAID THE NEW MOSQUES ARE EASILY IDENTIFIABLE BECAUSE THEIR ARCHITECTURE IS IN ARABIC STYLE, WHEREAS THE OLD ONES WERE BUILT LIKE CHINESE TEMPLES.

HE SAID THERE ARE NOW FIVE MOSQUES IN PEKING. THAT IS NOT MANY, COMPARED TO THE 40 THAT EXISTED BEFORE THE COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, BUT IT IS NEVERTHELESS AN IMPROVEMENT. HE ESTIMATED THERE MAY BE BETWEEN 30,000 TO 50,000 MOSQUES THROUGHOUT CHINA.

BUT WHILE THERE ARE MANY MOSQUES, THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF IMAMS (CLERGYMEN). JIANG SAID THE FEW WHO STILL LIVE ARE MOSTLY OLD MEN IN THEIR 80S, EDUCATED IN THE FAITH BEFORE THE COMMUNISTS CAME TO POWER. THERE HAS BEEN NO RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION SINCE.

IN THE OLD DAYS, JIANG SAID, THE MOSQUES WERE ISLAMIC SCHOOLS. HE HIMSELF RECEIVED FIVE YEARS OF ISLAMIC EDUCATION BEFORE GOING TO A PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR CHINESE EDUCATION.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT, RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FROM THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY, HAS ESTABLISHED FIVE OR SIX ISLAMIC COLLEGES. BUT THE DIRECTORS OF ALL OF THEM ARE COMMUNISTS AND MARXIST TEACHINGS DOMINATE THE RELIGIOUS CLASSES.

"RELIGION IS TAUGHT ONLY AS A NEGATIVE EXAMPLE," HE SAID, "WITH MARXIST EXPLANATIONS OF THE CORRECT ATTITUDE."

JIANG SAID CHINESE LAW PROHIBITS ANY KIND OF RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION, AT HOME OR AT SCHOOL, FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18. "OUR FAITH IS WEAKENED VERY VERY MUCH," HE SAID. "OUR ISLAMIC BELIEFS CAN BE PASSED DOWN TO CHILDREN ONLY IN THE WAY OF LIFE."

IN SCHOOL, HE SAID, CHILDREN ARE TAUGHT TO REGARD RELIGION AS SOMETHING TO BE ASHAMED OF, AS PRIMITIVE BELIEF PRACTICED BY THE LOWER FORMS OF CHINESE SOCIETY. JIANG SAID SOCIAL PRESSURE HAS ERODED THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, AND THAT HIS OWN TWO CHILDREN HAVE MOVED AWAY FROM ISLAM.

"A LOT OF CHILDREN FROM MUSLIM FAMILIES SAY THEY DO NOT BELIEVE," HE SAID.

DESPITE THE NEW FREEDOMS, JIANG SAID THERE CONTINUES TO BE TIGHT CONTROL OVER MUSLIM ACTIVITIES. "EVERYTHING WE DO IS CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

THE MUSLIMS HAVE ONLY ONE SOCIETY -- THE OLD CHINA MUSLIM ORGANIZATION -- AND ONE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION CALLED "CHINA MUSLIM." ALI SAID IT HAS 30 PAGES AND HALF OF THEM CONTAIN REPRINTS OF GOVERNMENT SPEECHES. COMMUNISTS HOLD ALL THE SENIOR POSITIONS IN THE ORGANIZATION AND IN THE EDITORIAL OFFICE.

NEVERTHELESS, JIANG SAYS HE IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE AND SAYS MUSLIMS FEEL THEY CAN "FIT INTO THIS SOCIETY." HE SAID HE HAS TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY IN CHINA AND HAS FOUND A GROWING COMMITMENT TO ISLAM AMONG MUSLIMS -- MUCH STRONGER THAN IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO.

SAID JIANG: "MORE AND MORE PEOPLE TRY TO BE INVOLVED IN ISLAMIC ACTIVITIES.... THE TREND IS NOT GOING DOWN. IT IS GOING UP AND UP."  
TB/GG

## E/W - (1) U.S. MONITORING SOVIET NUCLEAR TESTS FROM CHINA

FRIDAY, THE SOVIET UNION CONDUCTED ITS THIRD NUCLEAR TEST SINCE THE END OF ITS MORATORIUM.

IN 1981, IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA WERE SECRETLY OPERATING AN ELECTRONIC INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING STATION IN CHINA TO MONITOR SIGNALS FROM SOVIET MISSILE TESTS. THAT SECRET PROJECT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE INSTALLATION OF THE SEISMIC DEVICES, WHICH IS BEING DONE OPENLY AND PRIMARILY FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

THE DATA FROM CHINA WILL SUPPLEMENT INFORMATION GATHERED FROM SEISMIC RESEARCH INSTALLATIONS IN NORWAY, PAKISTAN, TURKEY, SOUTH KOREA, INDIA AND JAPAN, AMONG OTHER COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION, THE AIR FORCE OPERATES SECRET INSTALLATIONS AROUND THE WORLD TO MONITOR SOVIET TESTS.

DATA ON THE SIZE OF SOVIET TESTS ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE SOVIET UNION IS COMPLYING WITH TWO TREATIES FROM THE 1970S THAT SET A LIMIT OF 150 KILOTONS FOR UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS. A KILOTON REPRESENTS THE EXPLOSIVE FORCE OF 1,000 TONS OF TNT.

MANY EXPERTS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT SAY THE RUSSIANS ARE COMPLYING WITH THE TREATIES, WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT RATIFIED. THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAS CHARGED THAT IT IS "LIKELY" THAT MOSCOW HAS VIOLATED THE TREATIES, BUT IT IS RE-EXAMINING THE ISSUE.

THE DATA ARE ALSO IMPORTANT BECAUSE SUCH INFORMATION MAY ENABLE THE UNITED STATES TO MAKE MORE PRECISE ESTIMATES OF SOVIET TESTS USING DEVICES OUTSIDE THE SOVIET UNION. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS SAID THE MONITORING OF THE TREATIES SHOULD BE IMPROVED BY ON-SITE MONITORING AT THE SOVIET TEST SITE USING A CABLE INSERTED IN THE GROUND. BUT SOME EXPERTS SAY THAT SUCH INTRUSIVE MONITORING TECHNIQUES ARE NOT NECESSARY AND THAT IMPROVEMENTS IN SEISMIC MONITORING OUTSIDE THE SOVIET UNION AND POSSIBLE INSTALLATION OF SEISMIC DEVICES INSIDE THE SOVIET UNION WOULD SUFFICE.

IN OTHER EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SEISMIC MONITORING ABILITIES, THE DEFENSE RESEARCH AGENCY HAS SUPERVISED AN EXPERIMENT ABOUT 600 MILES OFF THE KAMCHATKA PENINSULA ON THE PACIFIC COAST OF THE SOVIET UNION.

IN THAT EXPERIMENT, THE GLOMAR CHALLENGER SHIP WAS USED TO DRILL A HOLE IN THE OCEAN FLOOR AND INSTALL A SEISMOMETER, ACCORDING TO THE BUDGET DOCUMENT FROM THE AGENCY. THE PURPOSE OF THE EXPERIMENT WAS TO DETERMINE IF DEVICES IN THE OCEAN FLOOR COULD MONITOR A TEST BAN OR A LOW LIMIT ON THE FORCE OF NUCLEAR TESTS.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID THE EXPERIMENT ESTABLISHED THAT THE OCEAN FLOOR SITES WERE "QUIET" ENOUGH - THAT IS, FREE OF SEISMIC BACKGROUND NOISE - THAT THIS COULD BE DONE.

THE DEFENSE RESEARCH AGENCY IS ALSO CONSIDERING AN EXPERIMENT IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES COULD CONDUCT AN UNDERGROUND TEST IN NEVADA "IN ROCK BELIEVED TO BE VERY SIMILAR TO THAT AT THE SOVIET TEST SITE," THE BUDGET DOCUMENT SAYS. MEASUREMENTS WOULD BE USED TO ADJUST ESTIMATES OF THE SIZE OF SOVIET TESTS. THE EXPERIMENT HAS BEEN DEFERRED IN THE PAST FOR LACK OF MONEY. AM/

WASHINGTON, APRIL 4 (SPECIAL) - THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY MICHAEL R. GORDON APPEARS TODAY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES:

WASHINGTON - THE UNITED STATES IS USING MONITORING DEVICES IN CHINA TO IMPROVE ESTIMATES OF THE SIZE OF SOVIET NUCLEAR TESTS, ACCORDING TO DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND INTERVIEWS WITH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS.

THE SEISMIC DEVICES, WHICH ARE MANNED BY CHINESE WORKERS, HAVE BEEN INSTALLED UNDER AN AMERICAN-CHINESE PROGRAM TO STUDY EARTHQUAKES. ONE DEVICE IS IN THE XINJIANG UYGUR AUTONOMOUS REGION, NEAR THE SOVIET NUCLEAR TEST SITE, AND THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WILL USE DATA FROM THIS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS TO IMPROVE U.S. MONITORING ABILITIES.

THE DATA WILL "IMPROVE OUR YIELD ESTIMATION" OF SOVIET NUCLEAR BLASTS, ACCORDING TO A BUDGET DOCUMENT PREPARED LAST YEAR BY THE DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY, PART OF THE PENTAGON.

THE DOCUMENT ALSO SAID THE DATA WOULD BE USEFUL IN IMPROVING AMERICAN "DISCRIMINATION CAPABILITY" TO DISTINGUISH SOVIET NUCLEAR TESTS FROM EARTHQUAKES. SUCH AN ABILITY WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MONITOR A LOW LIMIT ON THE SIZE OF UNDERGROUND TESTS OR A TOTAL BAN ON TESTING.

THE DOCUMENT WAS OBTAINED THROUGH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT BY WILLIAM M. ARKIN OF THE INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES, A NON-GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER, AND WAS LATER MADE AVAILABLE TO THE NEW YORK TIMES.

SOME AMERICAN GOVERNMENT EXPERTS HAVE LONG BEEN INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING A WAY TO MONITOR SOVIET NUCLEAR TESTS FROM CHINA. BUT CHINA HAS RESISTED OVERT EFFORTS AT GATHERING INTELLIGENCE ABOUT SOVIET BLASTS.

LAST YEAR, SPECIALISTS AT THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT, WHICH MANAGES THE NUCLEAR TESTING PROGRAM, EXPRESSED INTEREST IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CHINESE TO SET UP AN ADVANCED ARRAY OF SENSITIVE SEISMIC DEVICES IN CHINA TO MONITOR SOVIET TESTS, PARTICULARLY BLASTS OF VERY LOW YIELD. THE STATE DEPARTMENT ADVISED AGAINST SUCH A MOVE, ARGUING THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE FOR THE CHINESE AND THAT WASHINGTON SHOULD ADOPT A GO-SLOW APPROACH.

THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT'S PLANS WERE DISCLOSED IN BUDGET DOCUMENTS LAST YEAR BEFORE THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA DECIDED WHETHER TO CONDUCT SUCH TALKS. THE DISCLOSURE DISTRESSED THE CHINESE, AND THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT EFFORT WAS DROPPED.

DESPITE THIS CONTROVERSY, CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES PROCEEDED WITH A SEPARATE PROJECT TO SET UP NINE MONITORING STATIONS IN CHINA, PRIMARILY FOR STUDYING AND PREDICTING EARTHQUAKES. THE NETWORK WAS COMPLETED LAST YEAR - USING EQUIPMENT MADE BY CHINA, THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS - UNDER AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHINESE GOVERNMENT SEISMOLOGISTS AND THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES SHARE THE COST OF THE NETWORK, AND THE DEFENSE RESEARCH AGENCY PAYS MOST OF THE AMERICAN COSTS.

"WE LOOK ON IT AS A SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECT FOR THE STUDY OF EARTHQUAKES," SAID DAVID P. RUSS OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. "IF A CONTRIBUTOR HAS SOME OTHER PURPOSES, THAT IS HIS BUSINESS. IT IS NOT THE PRIMARY PURPOSE."

RUSS ADDED ALL OF THE DATA WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC.

ONE DEVICE IS IN URUMQI IN XINJIANG, IN THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF CHINA. THE DEVICE IS ABOUT 600 MILES FROM THE SOVIET TEST SITE AT SEMIPALATINSK IN CENTRAL ASIA. ANOTHER DEVICE, IN MANCHURIA, WILL ALLOW THE UNITED STATES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GEOLOGY OF THE SOVIET UNION.

AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE NETWORK WAS COMPLETED LAST FALL, MINOR TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WERE STILL BEING WORKED OUT. THE OFFICIALS SAID THERE WAS A DELAY OF SEVERAL MONTHS IN RECEIVING AND ANALYZING THE DATA FROM CHINA. AS A RESULT, THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT HAD A CHANCE TO EVALUATE DATA ON RECENT SOVIET TESTS, WHICH BEGAN IN FEBRUARY, WHEN THE RUSSIANS ENDED THEIR 18-MONTH MORATORIUM. (PTO)