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SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE DIGEST



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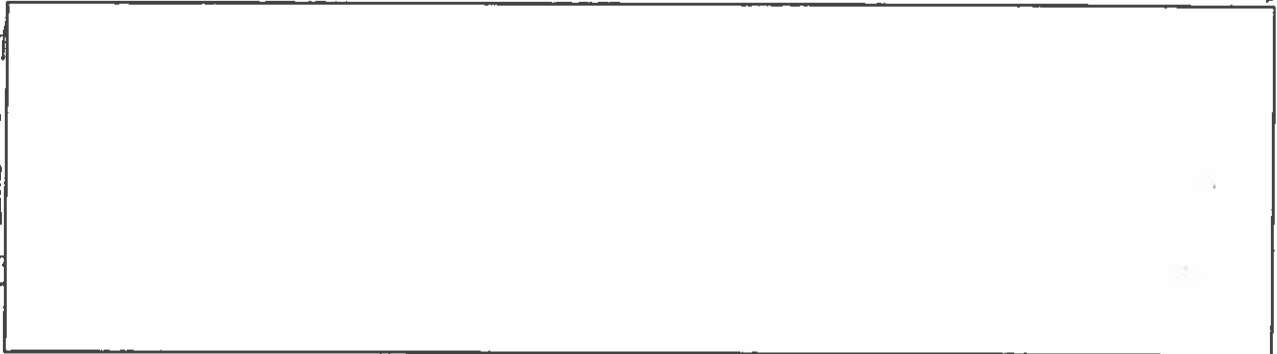


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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SOVIET UNION

2, 4
16, 19
19, 9
13, 7

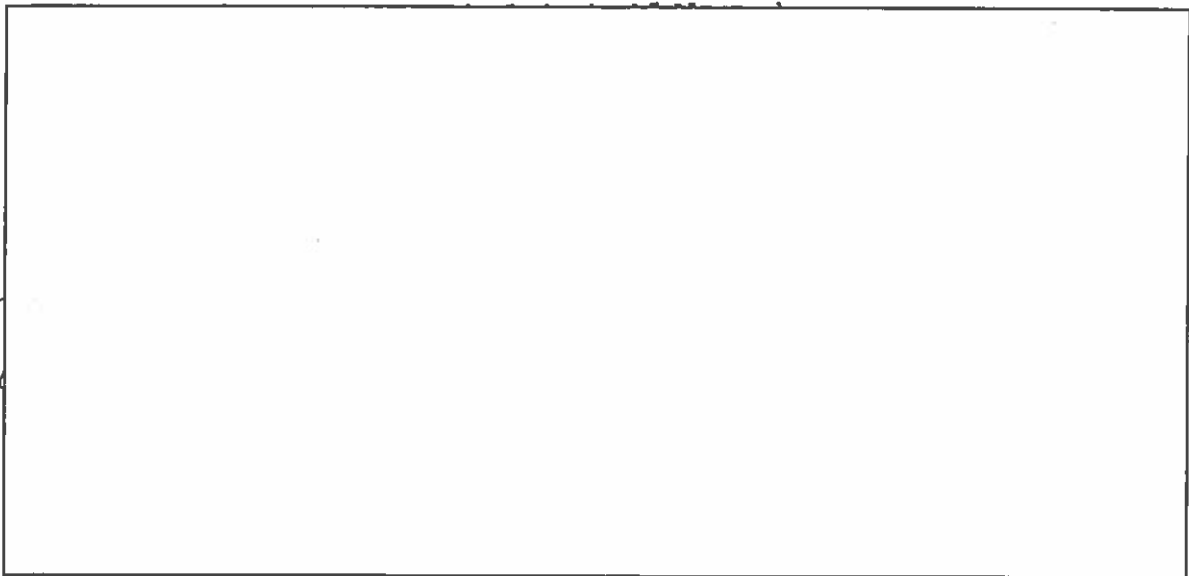


FAR EAST

15 5 Chinese Communist Nuclear Weapons Program 5

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~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]FAR EAST5. Chinese Communist Nuclear Weapons Program:UPI, *China*,
Jan 60
[REDACTED]

The U.S. News and World Report published an article which predicted that Red China will have an atomic bomb within two years. The copyrighted article quoted intelligence sources in Hong Kong as saying that the Chinese Communists would explode their first test device in late 1961 or early 1962. It said Red China is six years ahead of its original nuclear schedule.

According to the magazine, Russia has turned over fissionable material, test reactors and other equipment to the Peiping Government. It said Russian physicists helped to train and worked with China's nuclear experts.

Comment [REDACTED] There can be little doubt that China aspires to acquire a native nuclear weapons capability. Intelligence reports indicate that the USSR has aided China during the period 1950-1959 in the location and exploitation of its uranium ore resources. The Soviets also have provided China with a research reactor (7.5-10 MW) and a 25 million electron volt cyclotron, and are aiding in the training and gradual enlargement of Communist China's small corps of nuclear physicists and technicians. However, we have no evidence of construction of a production reactor or direct Soviet aid in the form of fissionable material or weapons information. Unless provided with substantial Soviet aid, it is believed that Communist China will not be in a position to test a nuclear device before 1963-1964.

SID 60-2
25 Jan 60

- 5 -

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