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LINE3: ZKZK PP AAZ INL DE
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INFO: 6975ISP
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PACOM IDHS
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SSO JTF KU//G2//
23ISS
SUBJ: NPIC HIGHLIGHT CABLE 20 OCT 95

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
PER E. O. 13526
2014-0964-M 05/26/16 KDE

~~THIS IS~~ NPIC HIGHLIGHT CABLE 95-8974 FOR 20 OCTOBER 1995.
EO 13526 1.4c
(S)

TEXT:
~~T O P S E C R E T~~ ~~SPOKE NOFORN~~
~~TALENT KEYHOLE~~ CHANNELS
QQQQ
SECTION 1 OF 4
ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO DAG KARON MUST BE FORWARDED
TO ITS COGNIZANT AUTHORITY - 1.4c - SSO DIA//PGX-5A//.
CONTENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FOREIGN RELEASE IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE IMAGERY POLICY SERIES
PASS TO SR DI REP
SSO FALCON PASS TO 2CACS AND 50TH SPACE WING, FALCON AFB
SERIAL: HL9525283
SUBJ: NPIC HIGHLIGHT CABLE 20 OCT 95

~~THIS IS~~ NPIC HIGHLIGHT CABLE 95-8974 FOR 20 OCTOBER 1995.
1.4c
(S)

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~~(S)~~

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED HEREIN HAVE NOT BEEN FORMALLY COORDINATED WITHIN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. COMMENTS AND QUERIES REGARDING ITEMS IN THIS REPORT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE APPROPRIATE ANALYST.
(U)

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TEXT:

1.WUZHAI SSM RAND-SPACE LCH SITE D -P [1.4c] 01C00054J
87112 385056N1113629E MRG:490
CHINA: UPGRADE OF SPACE LAUNCH COMPLEX AT WUZHAI COMPLETE ~~(S)~~

THE CHINESE RECENTLY COMPLETED THE UPGRADING OF LAUNCH SUPPORT FACILITIES AT WUZHAI LAUNCHSITE D. THE UPGRADING INCLUDES COMPLETION OF A LARGE AIR- CONDITIONING BUILDING BEHIND THE GANTRY SERVICE TOWER, THE INSTALLATION OF DUCTWORK FROM THE BUILDING INTO THE TOWER, AND THE EXPANSION OF THE LAUNCHPAD APRON AROUND THE BASE OF THE TOWER. ~~(S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

THE AIR-CONDITIONING FACILITY WILL BE USED TO FILTER AND ENVIRONMENTALLY CONTROL THE AIR DIRECTED INTO THE CLEAN ROOM AREA OF THE GANTRY SERVICE TOWER, THUS PROVIDING A MORE SUITABLE ATMOSPHERE TO MATE A SATELLITE WITH ITS LAUNCH VEHICLE. INCREASING THE USABLE AREA OF THE LAUNCHPAD APRON WILL ALLOW THE CHINESE TO ERECT LAUNCH VEHICLES AND MATE PAYLOADS WITH LESS CONGESTION AROUND THE BASE OF THE SERVICE TOWER. ~~(S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

THIS CONSTRUCTION IS A CONTINUATION OF UPGRADING ACTIVITY THAT BEGAN IN THE EARLY 1990-S, PRIMARILY TO FACILITATE BEIJING-S EFFORTS TO BECOME A LARGER PLAYER IN THE COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH MARKET. THE UPGRADES WILL ALSO BENEFIT CHINA-S OWN SPACE LAUNCH EFFORTS AND ITS DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC BALLISTIC MISSILES. ~~(S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

CONSTRUCTION OF THE AIR-CONDITIONING BUILDING BEGAN IN OCTOBER 1994. AN AREA BEHIND THE TOWER WAS EXCAVATED, A FOUNDATION WAS QUICKLY LAID, AND THEN CONSTRUCTION CEASED, POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF SEVERE WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS. CONSTRUCTION RESUMED IN APRIL 1995. WORK ON THE BUILDING CONTINUED DESPITE FLIGHT TESTS FROM LAUNCHSITE D OF A DF-31 ICBM REENTRY VEHICLE ON 29 MAY 1995 AND A DF-5A ICBM ON 26 JULY 1995. ~~(S/REL UK, CAN,~~
#1481

NNNN
~~T O P S E C R E T SPOKE NOFORN~~
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ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO DAG KARON MUST BE FORWARDED
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AUS)

CONTINUING CONSTRUCTION IN THE MIDST OF LAUNCH CYCLES FOR THEIR TWO NEWEST ICBM-S SUGGESTS THE CHINESE PLACED A HIGH PRIORITY ON COMPLETING THIS PROJECT. IN MID-SEPTEMBER 1995, THE CHINESE BEGAN ASSEMBLING SECTIONS OF DUCTWORK ON THE LAUNCHPAD APRON AND INSTALLING THEM ON TOP OF THE MULTISTORY, 38- BY 8-METER AIR-CONDITIONING BUILDING. THE DUCTWORK WAS EXTENDED TO THE REAR OF THE GANTRY SERVICE TOWER AND INTO THE CLEAN ROOM AREA OF THE TOWER. THE BUILDING APPEARS TO BE EXTERNALLY COMPLETE AND WILL PROBABLY BE OPERATIONAL BY EARLY 1996. ~~(S/S-REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

EXPANSION OF THE LAUNCHPAD APRON WAS CONDUCTED IN TWO PHASES. THE APRON ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE LAUNCHSITE WAS ENLARGED BETWEEN JUNE AND JULY 1995. EXPANSION OF THE APRON ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE LAUNCHSITE BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER 1995 AND WAS COMPLETED DURING OCTOBER. THE NEW CONSTRUCTION INCREASES THE PAVED APRON AREA BY ABOUT 40 PERCENT FOR MANEUVERING STAGE TRANSPORTERS, PAYLOAD DOLLIES, PROPELLANT VEHICLES, AND GENERAL SUPPORT EQUIPMENT AT LAUNCHSITE D. ~~(S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

IMPLICATIONS
THIS CONSTRUCTION IS A CONTINUATION OF UPGRADING ACTIVITY THAT WAS STARTED AT WUZHAI IN THE EARLY 1990-S. SOME OF THE FACILITIES THAT PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN BUILT DURING THIS UPGRADING INCLUDE: A LARGE TECHNICAL CENTER FOR THE TRANSFER, ASSEMBLY, AND TESTING OF LAUNCH VEHICLES AND PAYLOADS; AN ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT AREA; A RAIL-SERVED PROPELLANT TRANSFER FACILITY; A LARGE HOTEL; AND SEVERAL GENERAL SUPPORT BUILDINGS. ~~(S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

MANY OF THE NEW FACILITIES AT WUZHAI APPEAR TO BE PRIMARILY ASSOCIATED WITH BEIJING-S EFFORTS TO BECOME A LARGER PLAYER IN THE COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH SERVICES MARKET. THE FIRST COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH FROM WUZHAI IS SCHEDULED FOR MID-1996--A PAIR OF MOTOROLA IRIDIUM COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES TO BE CARRIED ON A LONG MARCH-2 SPACE LAUNCH VEHICLE. THE UPGRADES WILL ALSO BENEFIT A NUMBER OF CHINA-S OWN SPACE LAUNCH PROGRAMS, LIKE THE FY-1 METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE AND ITS EVENTUAL FOLLOW-ON SYSTEMS. IN ADDITION, SOME OF THEM WILL BE APPLICABLE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC BALLISTIC MISSILE SYSTEMS THAT WILL BE FLIGHT TESTED AT WUZHAI SUCH AS THE DF-5A, DF-31, AND DF-41 ICBM-S AND THE JL-2 SLBM. ~~(S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

EO 13526 1.4c

REFERENCE(S):

EO 13526 1.4c

2.WUZHAI SSM RAND-TNG LCH SITE A -P 1.4c 01C00054A
#1482

NNNN
~~T O P S E C R E T SPOKE NOFORN~~
~~TALENT KEYHOLE CHANNELS~~
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SERIAL: HL9525283
87142 385009N1113622E MRG:490
CHINA: CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT WUZHAI LAUNCHSITE A-6 ~~(S)~~

THE CHINESE APPEAR TO HAVE RESUMED CONSTRUCTION OF THE SILO AT LAUNCHSITE A-6 AT WUZHAI. THE SILO--WHICH WILL SUPPORT THE FLIGHT-TESTING OF THE DF-31 ICBM, THE JL-2 SLBM, AND PROBABLY THE DF-41 ICBM--WAS STARTED DURING THE EARLY 1990-S. ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION WAS OBSERVED AT THE SITE IN MID-1993, BUT UNTIL RECENTLY, NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY HAD BEEN SEEN THERE. ~~(S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

THE CURRENT ACTIVITY SUGGESTS THE CHINESE ARE PROBABLY MAKING MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE SILO AND THE ACCESS PLATFORMS BEFORE INSTALLING THE MISSILE LAUNCH TUBE. ONCE INSTALLATION IS COMPLETE, WE WOULD EXPECT THE CHINESE TO CONDUCT A SERIES OF EJECTION TESTS USING INERT TEST MISSILES. THE INITIAL FLIGHT TEST OF A MISSILE--MOST LIKELY THE DF-31--FROM THIS LAUNCHSITE COULD BE CONDUCTED AS EARLY AS MID-1996. ~~(S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

CONSTRUCTION OF LAUNCHSITE A-6 BEGAN IN LATE 1990. THE SILO AND UNDERGROUND SUBSTRUCTURES WERE COMPLETED IN THE FALL OF 1991. THE EXCAVATION AROUND THE SILO AND UNDERGROUND SUBSTRUCTURES WAS TOTALLY BACKFILLED BY AUGUST 1992. SEVERAL SITE SUPPORT BUILDINGS WERE COMPLETED BY EARLY SEPTEMBER 1992. A LARGE CONCRETE LOADING APRON AND A SITE ACCESS ROAD WERE IN PLACE BY LATE SEPTEMBER 1992. ~~(S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

IN MAY 1993, SILO ACCESS PLATFORMS AND COMPONENTS FOR A MOBILE SERVICE GANTRY WERE DELIVERED TO THE SITE. THREE ACCESS PLATFORMS--EACH WITH AN OUTER DIAMETER OF ABOUT 6.6 METERS--HAD BEEN INSTALLED IN THE SILO BY MID-JUNE 1993. EACH PLATFORM HAS A CIRCULAR APERTURE AT ITS CENTER. THE SIZE OF THESE

APERTURES--ONE WITH A DIAMETER OF 2.7 METERS AND TWO WITH A DIAMETER OF 2.4 METERS--IS CONSISTENT WITH THAT EXPECTED FOR THE OUTER DIAMETER OF THE LAUNCH TUBE TO BE USED WITH THE 2.0-METER-DIAMETER DF-31, JL-2, AND (PRESUMABLY) DF-41 MISSILES. THE MOBILE SERVICE GANTRY--WHICH TRAVELS ON TWO PARALLEL RAILS RUNNING ALMOST THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE LOADING APRON--WAS ASSEMBLED BY LATE AUGUST 1993. A REMOVABLE ENVIRONMENTAL COVER WAS PLACED OVER THE SILO OPENING AT THAT TIME. LOW LEVELS OF ACTIVITY HAVE BEEN OBSERVED AT LAUNCHSITE A-6 SINCE THEN, BUT THE SITE HAS REMAINED GENERALLY INACTIVE. ~~(S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

BETWEEN 27 AND 29 SEPTEMBER 1995 THE ENVIRONMENTAL COVER WAS REMOVED FROM THE SILO AT LAUNCHSITE A-6. THE COVER AND ONE OF THE SILO ACCESS PLATFORMS HAD BEEN PLACED ON THE LAUNCHSITE APRON 1.4c ON 1.4c ACQUIRED ON 29 SEPTEMBER, TWO ADDITIONAL ACCESS PLATFORMS HAD BEEN PLACED ON THE APRON. SINCE THEN, LITTLE ACTIVITY HAS BEEN OBSERVED AT THE SITE. ~~(S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

A TRUCK-MOUNTED CRANE WAS AT THE LAUNCHSITE ON 12 OCTOBER MOVING FOUR PROBABLE GENERATOR TRAILERS TO THE EDGE OF THE APRON. ON 14 OCTOBER, THE MOBILE SERVICE GANTRY HAD BEEN MOVED SLIGHTLY, BUT BY 15 OCTOBER, IT HAD BEEN RETURNED TO ITS PREVIOUS LOCATION DIRECTLY OVER THE SILO. ~~(S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

IMPLICATIONS
#1483

NNNN
~~T O P S E C R E T SPOKE NOFORN~~
~~PALENT KEYHOLE CHANNELS~~
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SECTION 4 OF 4
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THE CURRENT ACTIVITY AT LAUNCHSITE A-6 SUGGESTS THE CHINESE ARE PROBABLY MAKING MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE SILO AND TO THE ACCESS PLATFORMS BEFORE THE INSTALLATION OF AN EJECTION MECHANISM AND A MISSILE LAUNCH TUBE. (A MISSILE LAUNCHED FROM THIS SITE WILL FIRST BE EJECTED FROM A REINFORCED LAUNCH TUBE PROBABLY USING A GAS GENERATOR. ONCE THE MISSILE SAFELY CLEARS THE TUBE, IT WILL BE IGNITED WELL ABOVE THE APRON.) NO LAUNCH TUBE HAS YET BEEN IDENTIFIED AT WUZHAI. IT WILL PROBABLY BE DELIVERED TO WUZHAI BY TRAIN IN SEVERAL SECTIONS, TAKEN TO THE LAUNCHSITE BY FLATBED TRUCKS, AND THEN LOWERED INTO THE SILO USING THE MOBILE SERVICE GANTRY. ONCE THE LAUNCH TUBE IS

INSERTED AND THE SILO ACCESS PLATFORMS ARE REINSTALLED, WE WOULD EXPECT THE CHINESE TO CONDUCT A SERIES OF EJECTION TESTS USING INERT TEST MISSILES. THE INITIAL FLIGHT TEST OF A MISSILE--MOST LIKELY THE DF-31--FROM LAUNCHSITE A-6 COULD BE CONDUCTED AS EARLY AS MID-1996, ASSUMING THERE ARE NO DELAYS IN SILO CONSTRUCTION OR FLIGHT TEST MISSILE PRODUCTION. ~~(S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

EO 13526 1.4c

REFERENCE(S):

EO 13526 1.4c

DECL: DCIDR DRV: CIPS BY 0532514
#1484

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CLASS: ~~TOP SECRET~~
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DTG: 121411Z DEC 95
ORIG: NPIC//IAG/430A//
TO: KARON
1.4c ACDA
GCF SANFRAN
INFO: 6975ISP
LANTCOM IDHS
PACOM IDHS
1.4c
SSO JTF KU//G2//
23IS
SUBJ: NPIC HIGHLIGHT CABLE 12 DEC 95

THIS IS NPIC HIGHLIGHT CABLE 95-1854 FOR 12 DECEMBER 1995.
1.4c
~~(S)~~

TEXT:

~~T O P S E C R E T NOFORN~~
~~TALENT KEYHOLE CHANNELS~~
QQQQ
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ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO DAG KARON MUST BE FORWARDED TO
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SSO FALCON PASS TO 2CACS AND 50TH SPACE WING, FALCON AFB
SERIAL: HL9525585
SUBJ: NPIC HIGHLIGHT CABLE 12 DEC 95

THIS IS NPIC HIGHLIGHT CABLE 95-1854 FOR 12 DECEMBER 1995.
EO 13526 1.4c
~~(S)~~

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(U)

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TEXT:

1.BEIJING GUIDED MISSILE PLANT NAN YUAN [EO 13526 1.4c]
68111 394758N1162353E MRG:490
CHINA: DYNAMIC TESTING COMPLETED FOR SLV PROTOTYPE ~~(S)~~

[1.4c] THAT IN EARLY DECEMBER, THE CHINESE COMPLETED DYNAMIC TESTING OF A PROTOTYPE LONG MARCH-2C/SD (LM-2C/SD) SPACE LAUNCH VEHICLE (SLV) AT BEIJING GUIDED MISSILE PLANT NANYUAN. DYNAMIC TESTING IS PERFORMED AS PART OF SYSTEM DESIGN CERTIFICATION BEFORE CONDUCTING OPERATIONAL LAUNCHES. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, CHINA WILL USE THE LM-2C/SD SLV TO LAUNCH 22 US-BUILT IRIDIUM SATELLITES--TWO ABOARD EACH LM-2C/SD BOOSTER--STARTING IN MID-1996. THE LAUNCHES WILL BE CONDUCTED FROM THE WUZHAI SPACE AND MISSILE CENTER [1.4c], WHERE UPGRADES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS MISSION HAVE BEEN SEEN SINCE THE EARLY 1990-S. ~~(S/NF)~~

INDICATIONS OF DYNAMIC TESTING IN PROGRESS

DYNAMIC TESTING OF A PROTOTYPE LM-2C/SD SLV WAS APPARENTLY UNDER WAY AT NANYUAN BY 23 AUGUST, WHEN FIRST- AND SECOND-STAGE SLV TRANSPORTERS WERE ON AN APRON IN FRONT OF THE LARGER OF THE PLANT-S TWO DYNAMIC TEST TOWERS. LARGE SUBSYSTEMS OR AN ENTIRE SLV CAN BE ERECTED VERTICALLY IN THE TOWER TO CONDUCT VIBRATION, ACOUSTIC, AND HYDROSTATIC PRESSURE TESTS. THE DIMENSIONS OF THE SLV TRANSPORTERS ARE CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE WOULD EXPECT FOR A LM-2C/SD. LISTED IN THE TABLE BELOW ARE THE DIMENSIONS OF THE TRANSPORTERS SEEN AT NANYUAN SINCE AUGUST AND THE FIRST AND SECOND STAGES OF THE STANDARD LM-2C AND THE LM-2C/SD. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN METERS.

SLV TRANSPORTER OR COMPONENT	LENGTH	WIDTH (DIAMETER)
FIRST-STAGE TRANSPORTER	21.0	3.4
LM-2C FIRST STAGE	20.5	(3.35)

#7534

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LM-2C/SD FIRST STAGE	20.5	(3.35)
SECOND-STAGE TRANSPORTER	14.0	3.4
LM-2C SECOND STAGE	7.5	(3.35)
LM-2C/SD SECOND STAGE	11.5	(3.35)

(THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS CLASSIFIED ~~S/NF~~.)

THE FIRST-STAGE TRANSPORTER WAS THE SAME AS THAT USED FOR THE FIRST STAGE OF A STANDARD LM-2C. HOWEVER, THE SECOND-STAGE TRANSPORTER SEEN AT NANYUAN SINCE AUGUST IS ABOUT 4 METERS LONGER THAN THE SECOND-STAGE TRANSPORTER USED FOR A STANDARD LM-2C. THIS SUGGESTS THE SECOND STAGE OF THE SLV BEING TESTED IS ABOUT 4 METERS LONGER THAN THE STANDARD LM-SC SECOND STAGE; AS INDICATED IN THE TABLE ABOVE, THE SECOND STAGE OF THE LM-2C/SD IS 4 METERS LONGER THAN THE SECOND STAGE OF THE LM-2C. ~~(S/NF)~~

TESTING COMPLETED IN EARLY DECEMBER

BY 4 DECEMBER, ADDITIONAL SUPPORT EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING A PAYLOAD FAIRING HANDLING DOLLY, A PAYLOAD TRANSPORTER, AND A PRIME MOVER, HAD BEEN PLACED IN FRONT OF THE LARGER DYNAMIC TEST TOWER AT NANYUAN. THIS SUGGESTS THE CHINESE WERE PREPARING TO TAKE DOWN THE BOOSTER FOR THE PROTOTYPE LM-2C/SD AND ITS SIMULATED PAYLOAD. THE PAYLOAD FAIRING HANDLING DOLLY IS A LATTICE STRUCTURE, 8.2 METERS LONG AND 1.8 METERS WIDE, WITH THREE SUPPORT CRADLES--TWO WITH A DIAMETER OF ABOUT 3.3 METERS AND ONE WITH A DIAMETER OF ABOUT 1 METER. ITS SIZE CLOSELY MATCHES THAT OF THE PAYLOAD FAIRING (8.5 METERS LONG AND 3.35 METERS IN DIAMETER) FOR THE LM-2C/SD. THE PAYLOAD TRANSPORTER IS 9.4 METERS LONG AND 3.4 METERS WIDE; IT HAS A DEPRESSED CENTER SECTION WITH A 3.4-METER-DIAMETER PLATFORM TO CARRY PAYLOADS MATED TO LAUNCH VEHICLE ADAPTOR STRUCTURES IN THE VERTICAL POSITION. ~~(S/NF)~~

BY 7 DECEMBER, ALTHOUGH PART OF THE APRON IN FRONT OF THE LARGER DYNAMIC TEST TOWER WAS OBSCURED BY THE TOWER ITSELF, IT APPEARED THAT ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN REMOVED, SUGGESTING THE LM-2C/SD HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM THE TOWER AND MOVED TO AN ASSEMBLY BUILDING. THE PROTOTYPE BOOSTER, THE SIMULATED PAYLOAD, THE TRANSPORTERS, AND OTHER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT WILL PROBABLY BE PREPARED FOR SHIPMENT TO THE WUZHAI SPACE AND MISSILE CENTER. ~~(S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

NUMEROUS FACILITY UPGRADES, MANY OF WHICH ARE PROBABLY PART OF THE PREPARATION FOR LAUNCHES OF US-BUILT MOTOROLA IRIDIUM COMMUNICATION SATELLITES, HAVE BEEN SEEN AT CHINA-S WUZHAI LAUNCH COMPLEX SINCE THE EARLY 1990-S. RECENTLY, LAUNCHSITE D 1.4c AND SEVERAL SUPPORT FACILITIES AT WUZHAI HAVE UNDERGONE MODIFICATIONS AND UPGRADES TO ACCOMMODATE THE LM-2C/SD AND IRIDIUM SATELLITES (NPIC HIGHLIGHT CABLES HL

9525415 FOR 9 NOV 95, HL9525283 FOR 20 OCT 95, AND HL9524155 FOR 7 APR 95). WE EXPECT THE PROTOTYPE LM-2C/SD BOOSTER TO BE TAKEN TO WUZHAI FOR COMPATIBILITY TESTING AT LAUNCHSITE D, PROBABLY WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. ~~(S/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

1.4c

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SERIAL: HL9525585

3.5c

EO 13526 1.4c

COLLATERAL REFERENCES-
FBIS HONG KONG. HK1810105594, DTG 181055Z OCT 94 (U)
USDAO BEIJING. IIR 6 814 009 96, DTG 060719Z OCT 95 ~~(C)~~
NAIC. THE CHINESE CZ-2C COMPENDIUM, NAIC-1442-742-95, 13 FEB 95 ~~(S/NF/WN)~~

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1.4c

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2014-09604-M 05/26/16 KDE

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~~TALENT KEYHOLE/COMINT CHANNELS~~
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NPIC IMAGERY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
15 DECEMBER 1995

CHINA
DYNAMIC TESTING COMPLETED, SLV PROTOTYPE PROBABLY DELIVERED TO WUZHAI ~~(S)~~

CHINA
DYNAMIC TESTING COMPLETED, SLV PROTOTYPE PROBABLY DELIVERED TO WUZHAI ~~(S)~~

THE CHINESE HAVE COMPLETED DYNAMIC TESTING OF A PROTOTYPE LONG MARCH-2C/SD (LM-2C/SD) SPACE LAUNCH VEHICLE (SLV) AT BEIJING GUIDED MISSILE PLANT NANYUAN. THE PROTOTYPE SLV PROBABLY WAS DELIVERED TO WUZHAI SPACE AND MISSILE CENTER YESTERDAY. ~~(S-NF)~~

IN LATE AUGUST, TRANSPORTERS FOR THE FIRST STAGE AND SECOND STAGE OF AN SLV WERE ON AN APRON IN FRONT OF A DYNAMIC TEST TOWER WHERE VIBRATION, ACOUSTIC, AND HYDROSTATIC PRESSURE TESTS ARE CONDUCTED. THE SIZES OF THE TRANSPORTERS WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE DIMENSIONS OF THE LONG MARCH-2C/SD STAGES. ~~(S-NF)~~

BY EARLY DECEMBER, ADDITIONAL SUPPORT EQUIPMENT INCLUDING A DOLLY, A PAYLOAD TRANSPORTER, AND A PRIME MOVER WAS ON THE APRON. ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT APPARENTLY HAD BEEN REMOVED BY LAST WEEK, SUGGESTING THAT TESTING HAD CONCLUDED. ~~(S-REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

A PROTOTYPE LONG MARCH-2C/SD BOOSTER PROBABLY WAS DELIVERED TO WUZHAI, WHERE A LONG MARCH-2C/SD TRAINSET HAD ARRIVED BY YESTERDAY. THE NEXT STEP PROBABLY WILL BE TO TEST THE PROTOTYPE SLVS COMPATIBILITY WITH LAUNCH FACILITIES AT WUZHAI. ~~(S-NF)~~

SINCE THE EARLY 1990S, THE WUZHAI FACILITY HAS BEEN UPGRADED MANY TIMES, PROBABLY IN PREPARATION BOTH FOR THE USE OF THE SLV PROTOTYPE AND FOR THE CHECKOUT AND HANDLING OF MOTOROLA IRIDIUM COMMUNICATION SATELLITES. ~~(S-REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~

ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, CHINA WILL USE THIS SLV TO LAUNCH 22 US-BUILT IRIDIUM SATELLITES FROM WUZHAI STARTING IN MID-1996. (U)

BASED ON HL9525585 NPIC HIGHLIGHT CABLE FOR 12 DEC 95 AND HI9500194 NPIC 1500 HIGHLIGHT CABLE FOR 14 DEC 95.

EOM:
DECL:X1 DRV: MULT CL BY:0532514 CL REASON:1.5(C)
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