

provided includes the date (in Greenwich Mean Time), location, type, purpose and yield or yield range of the event.²

The United States Geological Survey (USGS), a part of the Department of the Interior, publishes a monthly listing called *Preliminary Determination of Epicenters*, which reports global seismic activity as recorded by stations all over the world. While the USGS does not identify certain seismic events as nuclear tests, activities listed in such places as Southern Nevada, Eastern Kazakhstan, Novaya Zemlya, Tuamotu Archipelago and Sinkiang Province are likely candidates. The analyst must be knowledgeable about the exact geographic co-ordinates of each nation's test site(s). Another indicator that certain seismic activity may be a test is the origin time. Explosions, unlike earthquakes, normally occur on the minute or the hour and usually during the daytime.

The USSR had, by 1987, not announced its tests. It has published some information about its peaceful nuclear explosion (PNE) programme and during a turbulent period following the 1958-61 moratorium announced a few high-yield atmospheric tests.

The UK has conducted only a few dozen tests since it started its nuclear testing programme in 1952. This could mean either that Britain has a very small number of warhead types in its stockpile or that it obtains a good deal of information from the USA, or both. The first 21 British tests were conducted in the atmosphere between October 1952 and September 1958.³ The tests from 1962 to 1987 were conducted jointly with the United States at the Nevada Test Site and were announced by the US Government.

Keeping track of French tests is not too difficult. The French Government reported quite a lot of information about many of the tests of the 1960s and early 1970s. More recent French tests were announced by New Zealand seismologists who record the explosions at Tuamotu Archipelago from a station at Rarotonga in the Cook Islands.⁴ France stopped testing in the atmosphere in 1975.

China announced almost all of its tests in 1964-77.⁵ China's test on 16 October 1980 was the last conducted in the atmosphere, Premier Zhao Ziyang announced on 21 March 1986 that China would no longer conduct tests in the atmosphere.