

ANNEXE 3. NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, 16 JULY 1945 — 1 JULY 1987

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Basic to an informed debate about nuclear weapon testing is an accurate and a comprehensive list of all known or presumed nuclear explosions. Facts about how many nuclear explosions have been conducted, and by whom, where and when they have taken place, are an essential starting point for further research and debate about testing and test ban issues. The lists provided in this appendix are as accurate and as comprehensive as it is possible to make them at this time. Because a large amount of secrecy has surrounded and still surrounds nuclear testing, these lists are inevitably incomplete.

I. SOURCES

Basic factual information about nuclear testing comes from several sources. Each of the governments that have conducted nuclear tests (the USA, the USSR, the UK, France, China and India) has provided information, in varying degrees, about its programme. In addition those governments have occasionally reported on the testing programmes and activities of other countries. Official government data, while the most authoritative, are normally incomplete and must be supplemented by other sources.

The US Government has provided the most information about its own test programme and the programmes of other countries. The basic document is the Department of Energy's *Announced United States Nuclear Tests, July 1945 through December 1986*.¹ All US tests conducted prior to the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) of 1963 are included, though at the time many of those tests were not announced. As for the tests conducted since 1963, "[s]ome tests conducted underground since the signing of the Treaty and designed to be contained completely have not been announced. Information concerning these events is classified." The information which has been