

Figure 2 Number of nuclear explosions 1945-1983.

A total of 1 469 nuclear explosions have been carried out on our Earth since 1945 according to current figures available from the Swedish Defence Research Institute. Of these explosions, 461 have been carried out in the atmosphere and 1 008 underground.

The following table shows nuclear explosions by country of origin:

	Atmosphere	Underground	Total
France	45	75	120
India	—	1	1
China	22	5	27
Soviet Union	161	368	529
United Kingdom	21	15	36
United States	212	544	756
	461	1 008	1 469

The table shows that the United States has carried out the greatest number of nuclear tests and that the two superpowers together have accounted for 87 per cent of the total. In the last few years the USSR has conducted the most nuclear tests, while the total number of tests has been comparatively constant at an average of 51 explosions per annum, i.e., about one test a week.

Seismic evidence indicates that most, if not all, nuclear explosions today are carried out underground. China has not adhered to the Partial Test Ban Treaty and has carried out occasional atmospheric tests, the latest in October 1980. Nor has France adhered to the treaty, although it has officially declared that it will not carry out nuclear weapons testing in the atmosphere. No such tests have been carried out by France since 1974.