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To: SCHEINLA, WULFNO, ROCHLIRO, BURKSU, CORDENPI, MAGR...
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The answer from Joe re my question on couldn't they do this soon if only for political reasons. I agree with him that BARC will need to scramble to get this done. There are several India watchers (including the folks at Livermore) who believe the whole move to test is coming from the politicians and NOT the technical community because the technical community knows how inadequate India's capability is in this area and fears that something would go wrong that would set the nuclear program back.

I'm checking with Brian now to see how far along the IC thinks they could be. While I think India would like to get real data from a test, given the CTBT deadline and that I think a test now would be primarily for political reasons, I think they would be willing to forego a more extensive test in order to pop something off before the end of the month. I agree with Joe, if they rush this, it is likley to get screwed up -- ie., there is a real possibility of major venting.

CC: HEATONER

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer