



Chinese Nuclear Tests

Disasters Caused by Nuclear Explosions on the Silk Road

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Damage beyond the reach of imagination

China implemented 46 nuclear tests from 1964 to 1996 in the test site constructed in Lop Nur, Uyghur District. Total yield amounted to about 20 megatons. The surface bursts may have caused tremendous damage because fission products mixed with surface materials took the form of large amounts of dust, and then descended on the surrounding and downwind areas.

Based on the estimated average population density 6.6 - 8.3 persons/km² in Uyghur District at the time, the study estimated that about 190,000 people would die in zone A. Moreover, the populations in zones B or C, where the risk of leukemia and other cancers or the hazard to fetuses may be enhanced significantly, has been estimated to be 1,290,000.

While the nuclear tests at the Lop Nur site were implemented until 1996, it may be believed that the health effects on people and nuclear hazards in Uyghur have continued into the 21st century.

CONTENTS

Method of Survey / Radiation Effects due to Nuclear Tests / Lop Nur Test Site / Surface Bursts causing Hazards in Wide Areas / Observation and effects in adjacent Kazakhstan and the former Soviet Union / Dose estimation due to the descent of nuclear sands in downwind areas by RAP / Dose calculation results for Makanchi / Hazardous dose in Uyghur / Problems of the hazardous effects of nuclear radiation in widespread areas, including Tibet / Problems of the management of the Lop Nur test site and the risks to soldiers and the public / At the instant of and just after a nuclear detonation: the flash from a fireball and blast wave / Acute deaths in Uyghur numbering 190,000 or more / Simulation for lethal Level A zone / Occurrence of acute radiation injuries in Level B zone / Effects on fetuses in Level C zone / Sterility in Level B and C zones / Genetic effect on the second generation / Later health injuries from nuclear disasters / Nuclear hazards remaining on the Silk Road / Decreasing and residual nuclear hazards / The influence of the Chinese nuclear tests to Japan / About Sichuan earthquake

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