

U.S. Rejects Peking Plan On A-Pledges

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The United States has rejected as propaganda a Chinese Communist proposal for an agreement stating that each country would not be the first to use nuclear weapons.

State Department officials said the proposal was made in secret U.S.-Red Chinese diplomatic talks a month ago for diversionary purposes. Communist China exploded its first nuclear device in October.

A spokesman declared:

"The purpose of the Chinese Communist proposal is obviously to distract attention from Peking's unwillingness to participate along with the overwhelming majority of the world's peoples in efforts to restrict nuclear testing or to engage in meaningful discussions of concrete disarmament measures."

U.S. and Red Chinese ambassadors meet periodically in Warsaw, Poland. A U.S. spokesman said the Chinese proposition was made in such a meeting.

State Department Press Officer Robert McCloskey said the United States was not saying that it was reserving the right to use nuclear weapons first. He took the position that the Chinese proposition had not been advanced seriously.