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DCI BRIEFING

16 May 1961

SOVIET CAPABILITIES FOR LONG RANGE ATTACK

I. Intercontinental Ballistic Missile

- A. Since first Soviet ICBM launching from the Tyura Tam Test range in August 1957, believe we have detected virtually all successful ICBM and space launchings--these include about 35 generally successful ICBMs.
- B. Extensive data collected from ICBM test firing program has enabled us to establish basic characteristics of ICBM system.
1. Configuration--very large vehicle, 450,000-500,000 lbs. gross take-off weight [redacted] --total thrust at take-off, about 750,000 lbs. 25X2
 2. Guidance system employs radio and inertial components--estimate CEP of about 2 n.m. under operational conditions in mid-1961--actual figure could be considerably greater or somewhat less.
 3. Range. Maximum range of ICBMs tested prior to 1960 estimated to be about 5,000 n.m.; 7,000 n.m. missile proof-tested in first half of 1960.
 4. Improvement in range due to reduction in nosecone weight--other characteristics believed identical--both versions can deliver multi-megaton payload.
 5. Reliability--good on the test range--Estimate that under operational conditions some 40-65% of ICBMs on launchers would get off within 15-30 minutes of scheduled times and arrive in vicinity of targets.

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- C. Deployment Concept. Present Soviet ICBM system is extremely bulky and must be fairly difficult to handle--launching sites probably are large, soft, fixed installations, located near rail lines.
1. Operational launchers probably paired--several pairs of launchers probably grouped in a site.
- D. Evidence is inconclusive as to precise timing of initial operational capability (IOC).
1. Majority in intelligence community estimates that as of about 1 January 1960, the first operational Soviet ICBM unit was trained and equipped with a few 5,000 n.m. missiles and launchers (7,000 ICBM available after about mid-1960)
 2. Army and Navy doubt that IOC occurred in 1960--but believe that Soviets did have "emergency" capability.
- E. In the estimate which the intelligence community completed last year, CIA estimated a Soviet program which would have given them 150 ICBMs on launcher in mid-1961. Other opinions in intelligence community ranged from Army-Navy view (50 in mid-1961) to Air Force view (200 in mid-1961)
1. CIA estimate for mid-1963 was 400. Army-Navy, 200; Air Force, 700.
- F. Intelligence Community currently engaged in re-examination of evidence relating to Soviet ICBM production and deployment in preparing this year's estimate--review not yet completed, but may lead to some revision of previous estimates. Until this process completed, must stress that figures which follow represent CIA views--current views of other intelligence agencies may well vary considerably.

- G. CIA now believes current Soviet strength in ICBMs on launchers smaller than previously estimated--while evidence indicates a large commitment of resources, program thus far appears to have been moderate in tempo.
1. As of mid-1961, we estimate that the USSR probably has 50-100 ICBMs on launchers.
 2. We believe that 100-150 is the highest present force level which can be reconciled with the evidence--rigid interpretation of evidence could lead to estimate of less than 50.
- H. CIA believes that Soviets probably are building toward a force of a few hundred launchers to be acquired at a moderate pace over the next two or three years. We estimate that this force will approximate 200-400 operational launchers by mid-1964. However, cannot exclude the possibility of as many as 450 by mid-1963.

II. Medium and Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles.

- A. Soviets now have available ballistic missiles of 700 (SS-3) and 1,100 n.m. (SS-4) range which provide overlapping coverage of targets on the Soviet periphery.
1. Last year we estimated a requirement of about 250 launchers for these missiles--150 for SS-3 and 100 for SS-4--to be attained in mid-1961. (Requirement for missile inventory set at 3 missiles per launcher; to be achieved by mid-1963.)
 2. CIA now estimates the same requirements for launchers and missiles, but believes they will both be met by mid-1962.

3. Mid-1961 strength estimated at 100 SS-3 launchers (300 missiles) and 125 SS-4 launchers (400 missiles)
- B. CIA estimates now take account of new 2,000 n.m. missile.
1. Sees buildup to 50-100 launchers and 150-300 missiles of this type by mid-1965--by that time, reduction in medium range missile strength will probably have begun.

III. Long Range Bombers

- A. Previous estimates of Soviet long range bomber force substantially unchanged.
1. Mid-1961 strength of Soviet Long-Range Aviation estimated at 150 jet and turboprop heavy bombers, (BISONS and BEARS) and 960 BADGER jet medium bombers.
 2. BISON production has continued at a slow rate for the last year or so and has declined in recent months--we believe that it will stop entirely in the near future.
 3. BLINDER, a new "supersonic dash" medium bomber is being produced at the rate of about 2 per month--30 produced to date.
- B. Estimate a gradual decline in Soviet Long Range Aviation to about 100 heavies and 700 mediums by 1966. Air Force estimates higher--200 heavies for 1962-1966 period, and slower decline in mediums.