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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR

REPORT NO. [Redacted]

SUBJECT Developments in the Soviet Missile and Nuclear Weapons Programs Up to Mid-September 1961

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Note: The R-12 missile mentioned in this report is discussed in greater detail in [Redacted] dated 6 March 1962.

Nuclear Weapons Tests

1. As of September 1961, Eng. Col. Gen. Fyrskiy,¹ one of two deputies to Chief Marshal of Artillery S. S. Varentsov and a specialist in nuclear weapons, was on Novaya Zemlya to direct the nuclear weapons tests going on there. He was not subordinate to Varentsov during this assignment. Fyrskiy was formerly commander of artillery of the North Caucasus Military District. There are both a huge

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through him subordinate to Chief Marshal of Artillery S. S. Varentsov. Free rocket brigades comprise battalions; a number of battalions can be assigned to a front or an army, and can be split up among a number of divisions. There is no fixed rule governing the numbers allocated, through certain basic calculations have been worked out, according to the situation to be encountered. The battalion is not organic to a division; a battalion can operate independently.

Deployment

2. There are possibly about ten brigades of TRA with the GSFG. Col. Khoroshilov was a TRA (brigade) commander before becoming Chief of Staff to Maj. Gen. Kupin at GSFG Artillery Headquarters.

Composition of Brigades

3. Free rocket brigades are composite and may include the several types of free rockets - 3R1, 3R2, 3R3, and 3R7 - but the same brigade does not include both free rockets and atomic cannon. Battalions of each may operate side by side, but they will belong to different brigades. There is no regimental organization.

4. Considerable importance is attached to the battalion commander. In effect he corresponds to the former regimental commander. The battalion may be detached to a location 100 km away, operate independently, and then rejoin its brigade.

Training

5. All training exercises now include live firing of free rockets.

Production

6. At the 1960 Moscow Parade two 310 mm rifled (atomic) cannon were displayed on Khrushchev's orders, in order to impress Western observers. Normally these guns can be viewed, uncovered, only by holders of permits; but at this parade the covers were removed and photography was permitted, though of course technical details were not revealed. At that time there were very few of them, but since then production has progressed and they are being produced in quantity. [Source had no details as to numbers produced or production facilities.] In artillery circles they are considered to be good guns. Source was asked but could not recall the minimum range of the atomic cannon.

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7. The 3R1, 3R2, 3R3, and 3R7 are all in series production. Issuance to troops began about four or five years before spring of 1961.

8. There is a mass production line for (high explosive) free rockets in Gorkiy.

9. Conventional (HE) warhead charges are manufactured and stored at Shakhtinsk, described as "150-180 km from Rostov-on-Don".

The Luna Free Rocket

10. The new rocket has not yet been shown in a Moscow Parade. In December 1960 one was fired from the Kapustin Yar rangehead but because of the failure of one of the instruments regulating the fuel supply, it fell on a populated area, without causing much damage.

[REDACTED] Comment:

1. Both the 310 mm self-propelled gun and the 420 mm self-propelled mortar appeared in the November 1957 Moscow Parade. The versions shown in the May 1960 Parade were modifications of the items shown earlier.