MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President
(National Security Affairs)

SUBJECT: Reports of Use of Laser Weapons by the
Soviets Against the Chinese

REFERENCE: PFIAB Memorandum to Secretary Kissinger,
dated 3 September 1974

1. Per Admiral Anderson's request, we have prepared
the attached analysis of the twelve reports we have
received since 1971 alleging that the Soviets used lasers
in a weapons-related role against the Chinese during the
Sino-Soviet border clashes in 1969. As you will see,
this analysis makes us very skeptical about the accuracy
of these reports.

2. Should you wish to pursue this topic in private
discussions with Chinese officials during your next trip
to the People's Republic, you could simply state that we
have had a few low level reports claiming that the Soviets
used lasers against PRC forces during the border incidents
of the late 1960s and ask whether these allegations have
any basis in fact. Should the Chinese respond affirmatively
and seem willing to discuss the subject, answers to
questions along the following lines would be very helpful:

   a. How were the lasers used -- e.g., to guide
      missiles or bombs, to blind personnel, to inflict
      burns, to ignite vehicles or other targets?
b. What actual effects did the laser beams have?

c. If lasers were used (which we doubt), we would welcome any obtainable information on what they or their supporting equipment looked like, their size, their mobility and the color of the laser light.

W. E. Colby
Director
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

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**ACTION** | **DIRECT REPLY** | **PREPARE REPLY** | **APPROVAL** | **DISPATCH** | **RECOMMENDATION** | **COMMENT** | **FILE** | **RETURN** | **CONCURRENCE** | **INFORMATION** | **SIGNATURE** |
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Remarks:

**SUBJECT:** The Soviet Laser Rumors

The attached was prepared primarily to keep Admiral Anderson happy and he will, of course, be sent a copy. It has been thoroughly scrubbed by all concerned components within the Agency and reflects a unanimous point of view.

**cc:** DDCI, DDI, DDS&G, D/OSR, D/OSI, D/DCI/IC, D/OWI

**FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER**

FROM: Name, Address and Phone No. | Date
---|---
George A. Carver Jr., D/NTQ | 29Oct74