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**CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED**

11 December 1958
CIA/RR MP-264

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CIA Evaluation and Recommendation
Regarding Usachev Statement

1. On 25 November 1958, a comprehensive re-examination of the status of the Soviet ICBM program was completed. This review was conducted independently by the Guided Missile Intelligence Committee and by an ad hoc panel of consultants to the Director of Central Intelligence. On the basis of this thorough review of available evidence, two principal modifications were made in NIE 11-5-58 of 19 August 1958.

2. We find that the "new information" on Soviet ICBM capabilities contained in the Geneva remarks of I. G. Usachev is not significantly different from several statements made by the same source more than a year ago. Moreover, scrutiny of Usachev's statements both at Geneva and in the past indicates the likelihood that he may be doing little more than providing his own interpretation of public statements appearing in the open press. Statements that the re-entry problem had been solved and that the system was quite accurate appeared more than a year ago in the press. Usachev's recent statements regarding "mass production" of ICBMs and the existence of "more than a token number of operational bases" may be no more than a logical inference drawn from Khrushchev's ICBM statement in the Seven Year Plan Thesis; that is, with preparations for production allegedly completed, production could now be presumed to be in process, and there should now be some bases available for the ICBMs produced. Although not

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information, especially on Soviet missile production, has been received in the past few weeks

, our initial evaluation of this information does not reveal any major differences from the data which was thoroughly scrutinized in the recent re-examination.

3. The CIA position during the GAC re-examination differed from the majority view in several important respects, in each case reflecting an earlier capability date:

a. We believed that a Soviet emergency operational ICBM could occur prior to the end of 1958 and might in fact be in existence.

b. We estimated that initial deliveries of production ICBMs and equipment to operational troops could begin in early 1959.

c. We considered that the USSR could have an operational capability with about 100 ICBMs some time during 1960 and with about 500 ICBMs sometime during 1961 or at the latest 1962.

Inasmuch as the information from other sources received since the re-examination does not conflict with early Soviet ICBM capability dates, we continue to believe this position is the best estimate which can now be made.

4. Most of the new information/ cannot be fully evaluated from other sources

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In the absence of compelling new evidence at this time, we do not consider it appropriate or useful to recommend revision of the estimate which has just been thoroughly re-evaluated and formally modified. We believe, therefore, that the Guided Missile Intelligence Committee should recommend to the United States Intelligence Board that no change be made in the current estimate.

Selected Soviet Statements on ICBM

I. G. Usachev

Others

"state of art ... makes it possible to send rockets many thousands Km." (Red Star, 20 March 1954)

"we can say rockets developed over past few years are becoming intercontinental weapons" (Bulganin, Supreme Soviet Speech, 30 December 1955)

"USSR will have a guided missile with hydrogen war-head which can strike anywhere in the world" (Khrushchev, Birmingham, England, 23 April 1956)

"ICBM launched a few days ago ... fully confirmed calculations ... selected design ... solution of the problem of designing ICBMs will make it possible to reach remote areas" (Pravda, 26 August 1957)

"we have all the rockets we need, long-range, intermediate close-range. Of course these are not the limits of what can be achieved, for engineering is not marking time, but these means fully insure our defense". (Khrushchev-Reston interview, N.Y. Times, 8 October 1957)

Re Khrushchev statement Reston, Usachev said statement true, and that it would take 50, certainly not more than 100, and probably only 20 such missiles to "Take care of the U.S.". (N.Y. Times, 25 October 1957)

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I. G. Usachev

Others

Development of the ICBM by the USSR had completely altered the strategic positions of two countries. If USSR accepted Western proposal on aerial inspection, U.S. would abandon it. Furthermore it was now* in the interest of the Soviet Union have aerial inspection of U.S. because Soviet Union had ICBMs now, whereas the U.S. did not. (N.Y., UN, 5 November 1957.)

Soviet ICBM superior ... accuracy hailed. Have already developed ICBM with hydrogen warhead. However, tests were conducted with blanks. (Khrushchev-Shapiro interview, N.Y. Times, 16 November 1957)

Categorical statement that balance of military power is changing in Soviet favor and that Soviet Union has enough ICBMs now to destroy the U.S. Again said 50-100 are enough. (N.Y., UN, 18 November 1957.)

If necessary, tomorrow we can launch 10 or 20 satellites. All that is required is to replace the warhead with instruments. (Khrushchev-Hearst interview, 22 November 1957)

* Word as appears, some conversation. Context suggests should be not.

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I. G. Usachev

Others

Report USSR has solved re-entry heat problem through use of "sweating walls" of ceramic-cobalt compound through which liquid is forced under pressure to cool missile walls by evaporation. (Article in Soviet Aviation, reported N.Y. Times, 25 November 1957)

The ICBM has been tested ... Soviet rockets are covering intercontinental distances. (Rudenko, 40th Ann. Armed Forces Day, 19 February 1958)

Armed forces have rockets of short, intermediate, long and super-long range action. (Malinovsky, 40th Ann. Armed Forces Day, 19 February 1958)

The production of ICBMs has been set up successfully. (Khrushchev, 7 Year Plan Theses, 14 November 1958)

ICBMs are presently in mass production. USSR has more than a token number of ICBM operational sites. Both the guidance and re-entry problems have been solved. (4 December 1958, conversation)

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