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Area Briefs

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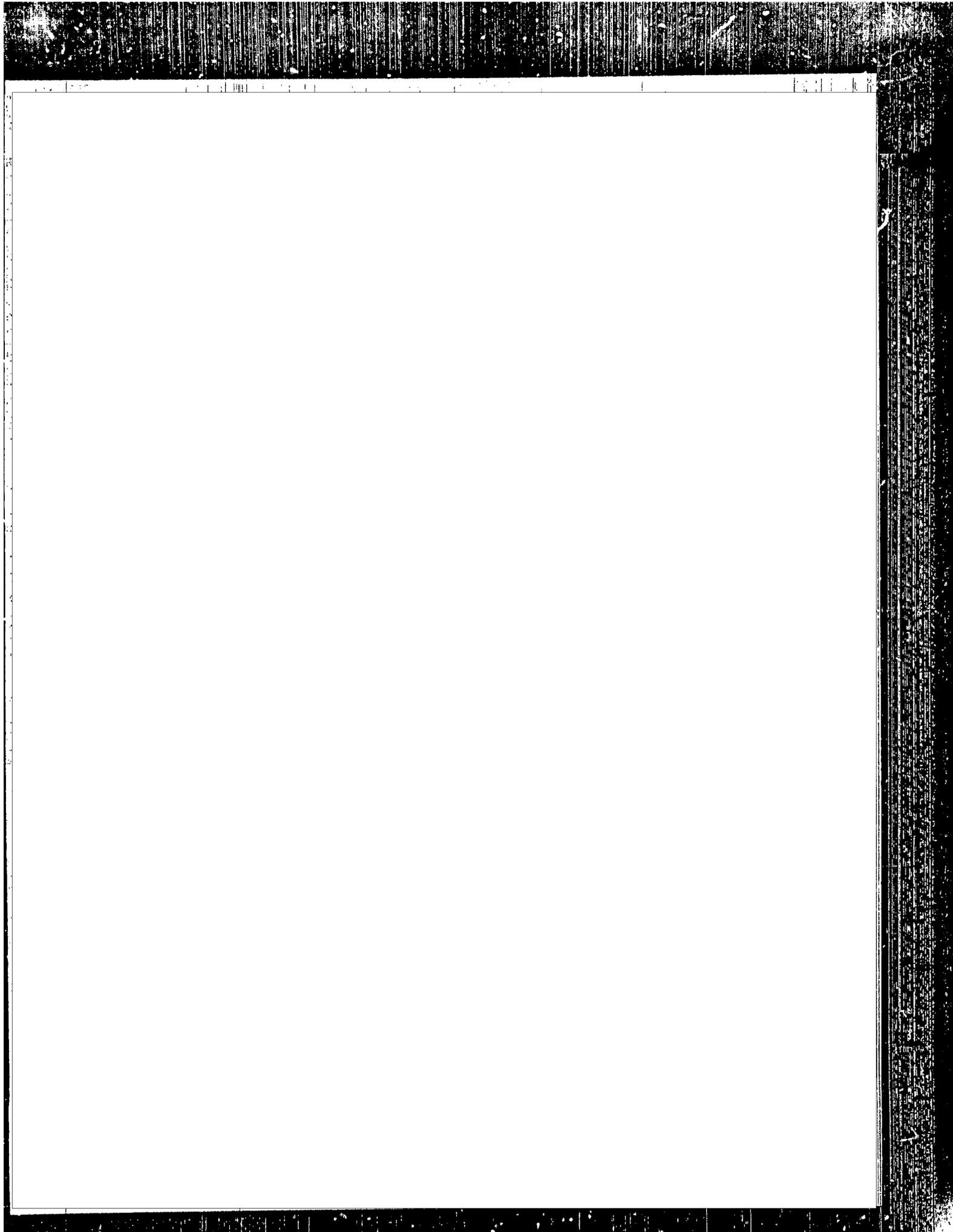
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■1. FRANCE: STRATEGIC BALLISTIC MISSILES

//PRESIDENT GISCARD'S VIEWS, AS OUTLINED IN A RECENT ADDRESS TO THE FRENCH AIR FORCE ACADEMY, SEEM TO FAVOR DEVELOPING MOBILE BALLISTIC MISSILES SIMILAR TO THE SOVIET SS-20 OVER CURRENT FRENCH STRATEGIC CRUISE MISSILE EFFORTS. DEFENSE OFFICIALS MAY NOT SHARE GISCARD'S OPINIONS, AND WE DO NOT KNOW OF ANY FUNDING FOR EITHER PROGRAM.

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//ACCORDING TO GISCARD, THE FRENCH ARE CONVERTING
NINE OF THE 13 IRBM SILOS FOR THE S-3. THE FIRST S-3S
COULD BE OPERATIONAL AS EARLY AS NEXT YEAR. GISCARD SAID
THAT FRANCE IS CONSIDERING A MOBILE LAND-BASED IRBM SIMILAR
IN RANGE, ACCURACY, AND EFFECTIVENESS TO THE SS-20. HE SAID
THAT CRUISE MISSILES NOW UNDER STUDY WERE IMPRACTICAL
BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBERS REQUIRED AND THE NEED FOR
SIGNIFICANT TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.//