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Secret Objectives

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE



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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

18 January 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Recipients of NIE 11-4-77, "Soviet Strategic Objectives"

FROM : George Bush

1. The production of NIE 11-3/8-76 has disclosed a wide range of views within the Intelligence Community on the question of Soviet objectives for strategic forces, a question on which very little hard evidence is available. NIE 11-4-77, forwarded herewith, examines the broader question of Soviet strategic objectives overall, and is not intended to supersede NIE 11-3/8. NIE 11-4 uses a presentational technique different from that of 11-3/8. It is intended to help the reader understand the argument, rather than to resolve it.

2. For this reason NIE 11-4-77 is an unusual estimate. It presents two general lines of argument without requiring the NFIB principals to define their positions. Obviously, within these two general positions there are differences of emphasis among the individual agencies, but I believe that to state these would be more likely to hamper the reader's basic understanding of this important issue than to assist it.

George Bush
George Bush

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