

Armed Services Com.

THE EVENING STAR A-5
Washington, D. C.
Tuesday, December 30, 1958

Defense Aides Face Quiz on Soviet ICBMs

By the Associated Press

Members of two Senate committees said today Pentagon officials will be asked about reports that Russia will have 300 intercontinental ballistic missiles within 18 months.

A report to that effect, without any verification, was made public here at a week-end meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It said half the 300 ICBMs would work, with a range and accuracy that could destroy the United States Strategic Air Command's retaliatory power.

There was no comment from military officials.

Second-Hand Report

Roger Hilsman, deputy research director of the Library of Congress legislative reference service, said he got the report second hand from a meeting of a minority group of the Council of Foreign Relations in New York early this month.

But members of the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees said the estimate calls for an early statement by the Defense Department to the two groups.

Senator Mansfield of Montana, assistant Democratic leader, said closed-door sessions of the two committees to receive the appraisal. "Unquestionably still in the hands of the defense establishment and Congress must determine its own course."

Appearance Authorized

President Eisenhower

ready has authorized administration officials to go before the Foreign Relations Committee early next month to answer questions on foreign policy and such related matters as this country's defensive strength in the cold war.

In separate interviews Senators Sparkman, Democrat of Alabama; Bush, Republican of Connecticut, and Cooper, Republican of Kentucky, all said Congress will need some early comment from the Defense Department on what the known facts are.

Senator Mansfield said the estimate, if it is found accurate or even nearly so, "ought to wipe away any complacency" stemming from this country's feat in sending the talking Atlas ballistic missile into orbit.