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30 October 1957

PROPOSED AQUATONE COVERAGE OF SOVIET LONG RANGE AVIATION CAPABILITIES

1. Recent coverage of the USSR by AQUATONE and recent events, such as the test firing of an ICBM and the launch of the earth satellite, have given startling indications of the highly advanced state of the Soviet capability to deliver weapons against the United States, at least in the field of guided missiles.

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2. These indications bring into critical relief the issue of the deployment of Soviet resources as between long range bomber forces and production facilities on the one hand and guided missiles on the other. Hard facts are extremely sparse for determination of the actual strength of the Bear and Bison forces which accounts for the division of opinion within the US intelligence community and as [redacted] intelligence on the estimate on that subject. Faulty estimating on this subject can quite possibly lead to misapplication of enormous sums of money on the part of this government in preparation for national defense. Of more drastic consequence would be that it would place our security in serious jeopardy.

3. Accordingly we urge that permission be granted for AQUATONE coverage of key air bases which would provide, we believe, substantial increments to our base for estimating current long range bomber strength (CHEPELEVKA, SARATOV/ENGELS, UKRAINA, BELAYA TSERKOV, POLTAVA, MINSK) and the production facilities which would provide a basis for strengthening our estimates on trends and capabilities (KUYBYSHEV, KAZAN).

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