

Soviet Capabilities
in Guided Missiles

(IAC-D-81, 10 March 1954;
Memorandum for DCI from
Assistant Secretary of
Defense (R&D) dated 26 March,
circulated to members 29 March)

3. Action: Agreed to undertake a National Intelligence

Estimate on the status and future course of Soviet guided missile

development. The Board of National Estimates will be augmented

and members were invited to nominate such advisors.
by scientific advisors. The estimate's scope will include points

raised by both FCDA and ^{25X1A} [REDACTED] will initially be open-ended
as to time covered, and will be completed at a date judged realistic
on the basis of further consideration by the Board of National Estimates.

4. Discussion: The Acting DCI felt that this subject was so
important and embraced so many aspects of intelligence production
that it should be treated on a broad rather than a narrower basis.

It was recognized that the subject matter had major military implications
and that the instant case would establish no precedent.

5. There was the suggestion that an ad hoc group, comparable
to the JAEIC, make the desired estimate for IAC review, but this
was rejected on the grounds that the existing NIE machinery was
entirely adequate. In any event, the IAC felt that it was premature
to conclude that there is a requirement for a JAEIC-type mechanism
in the guided missile field.

6. Tentative plans to enlist the assistance of a few cleared scientists privy to U.S. missile research and development were discussed. It was recognized that such assistance to the Board would aid in satisfying consumers that the best possible work had been done and in checking the intelligence methodology employed. The members were invited to nominate scientific advisors.

7. Tentative plans to create task teams for the scientific-technical, political, economic and strategic aspects of the estimate were outlined. In reply to Mr. Armstrong's question as to the role of the SEC (established by DCID 3/4 to integrate intelligence opinion for the purposes of national intelligence), it was suggested that the scientific-technical task team could perform this function.