

New Data Upgrade Red ICBMs

Dulles Discusses Missiles With 2 Senate Units

By John G. Norris
Staff Reporter

New American intelligence data now credits Soviet missiles with having greater accuracy than was estimated in congressional testimony only a week ago.

Central Intelligence Director Allen Dulles gave this newly upgraded estimate of Soviet ICBM capability before a closed session of the combined Senate Space and Preparedness Committees yesterday.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) told newsmen of the altered estimate. He would not say what was involved, other than that Dulles

had disclosed some new intelligence data that gave the Soviets a "substantial" improvement in capability over what Defense Secretary Thomas S. Gates Jr. had testified to last week.

Deals With 'Quality'

Others present who did not want to be quoted said the new information dealt with ICBM "quality" rather than numbers and credited Russia with greater accuracy than acknowledged by United States intelligence a week ago.

Gates and Gen. Nathan F. Twining, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in briefing congressional committees, stated at that time that the new intelligence data showed Russia's ocean-spanning missile was less accurate than the American Atlas.

Pentagon officials have said that the Atlas has hit within

ent 5000-mile firings. Senators would not say last night what the estimated margin of error was for the Russian ICBM, but declared that the new Dulles figure still did not credit it with being as accurate as the Atlas.

The said, however, that the lower accuracy estimated for the Soviet missile might be offset by more powerful warheads that bigger Soviet rockets make possible.

Gates also declared that new intelligence estimates concluded that the Soviet Union would have only a "moderate" lead over the United States in ICBMs during the early 1960s rather than the 3-1 superiority that Pentagon chiefs had conceded possible last year.

After day-long questioning of Dulles, Democratic Senators also challenged the validity of this picture given by Pentagon leaders. There was no comment from the Republican Senators present, although Senate Republican Leader Everett M. Dirksen (Ill.) chided the Democrats in a Senate speech for their attacks on the defense program.

'Rosy Color' Removed

"Some of the rosy color of Gates' testimony last week has been removed by the presentation of Dulles today," Jackson said. "Nothing in the briefing warranted taking the risks that I think Gates is taking in the missile field."

He said there has been no radical change from the overall intelligence picture given a year ago and nothing to show that Russia won't have quantitative and qualitative lead in ICBMs. Jackson said the Dulles testimony shows the United States continues to have an over-all capability to deter the Soviet Union from attacking, but that a step-up in the Nation's Polaris submarine and Minuteman missile programs are necessary to prevent this ability from being "lost."

Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) said the Dulles testimony "confirms without reservation by position on the missile issue." Symington, a former Air Force secretary and longtime critic of the Eisenhower Administration's defense program, earlier challenged Gates' testimony that the Soviet ICBM lead would not be as great as previously expected.

firmly that in the not too distant future the "missile gap" will be more than the 3-1 margin previously acknowledged," said Symington.

Senate Democratic Leader

Lyndon B. Johnson (Tex.), who is chairman of both committees, said that "everything

I have heard today reinforces my conviction that we have got to go further and faster."

"It is entirely clear to me that, regardless of how the facts are interpreted," he said, "the Soviet Union is pursuing vigorously a missile program that will give communism an enormous striking power in the foreseeable future. . . . 'Certainly the picture is not rosy.'"

Arguments Not Discussed

None of the Democrats would go into what Johnson called the "arguments about technicalities" concerning the use of "intentions" versus "capabilities" in evaluating future Soviet missile production.

When Symington was asked if Dulles' testimony had confirmed his charge that the Administration had "juggled" intelligence data to justify cutting the defense budget, the Missourian replied that he had never accused the CIA of being involved in the "juggling."

Jackson said he felt that the CIA was doing as "good a job as it could" in getting intelligence about what is going on in Russia. He said it is getting more data than it did previously, but the "problem is getting more complicated." "My quarrel," said Jackson, "is with the Pentagon use of the intelligence data rather than with what CIA is providing."

Both Jackson and Johnson criticized the Administration for "accepting second place" in the missile and space race.

Dirksen Twits Democrats

Dirksen in his Senate speech attacked "Democratic presidential candidates" who "set themselves up as military experts" to "disparage" the American defense effort. He said he had confidence in the judgment of President Eisenhower, who "has devoted his life to defense."

Dirksen said that Symington had done an "awful thing" in stating in an earlier Senate speech that the American people were being "enticed down the trail of insecurity" by the Administration. That was a reflection on President Eisenhower, "that grand captain of the world has ever seen" in World War II. Dirksen said

The Senate GOP leaders gestured sarcastically that Democratic critics be put on a "committee for the conduct of the cold and/or hot war" similar to the much-maligned congressional group that President Lincoln had to deal with in the Civil War. Dirksen said that "a very distinguished artillery captain from Missouri—an obvious reference to Eisenhower—should also be a member of the committee."