



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

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IN REPLY REFER TO
Ser: 00056F1
6 NOV 1968

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Dear Ruf,


I am enclosing a memorandum from RADM George Miller concerning the cruise missile threat. As you know, ONI's position right along has been that most of the SS-N-3s would probably be targeted against ships, but that the missile has a capability against land targets and that at least some would probably be targeted against land targets. As Admiral Miller points out, we should not preclude the possibility that under some scenarios they could be extremely effective against land targets.

I would appreciate your views on the memorandum. We have asked our Scientific and Technical Intelligence Center to review their information on the SS-N-3 capability against land targets, e.g., guidance and test firings.

Our current NIEs do nod to the land aspects of this problem but leave the overall impression that this is a wasting asset for the Soviets in view of their increasing ballistic missile capabilities at sea. Nevertheless, it remains a significant capability against CONUS that no planner can afford to ignore. I hope, therefore, that the intelligence community will remain alert to the problem and that we won't be so preclusive in future estimates concerning the likelihood of the use of this missile (and later improved versions) against land targets.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,


F. J. HARLFINGER, II
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Assistant Chief of Naval Operations
(Intelligence)

Encl

(1) OP-97 memo ser 000116P97 of 28 Oct 1968

Vice Admiral Rufus Taylor, U.S. Navy
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

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