



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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TS-0304/AP-3Y

18 FEB 1969

Major General Jack E. Thomas, USAF
Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Air Force
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Jack:

I have received your letter dated 29 January 1969 concerning the Air Staff's requirement for detailed planning factors relative to Soviet civil defense readiness. I note that Air Staff analyses are already underway and the data are required at an early date.

Unfortunately, the detailed information and assessments which would be required before a comprehensive SNIE on Soviet civil defense could be produced are not available. It is estimated that not less than six months will be required to conduct the detailed exploratory studies which are needed to provide a basis for producing such a SNIE. I realize that this does not provide an answer to your immediate problem. I fully appreciate, however, that this problem is one of great concern, not only to the Air Force but to a number of other elements of the Department of Defense. Therefore, I will propose to the Director of Central Intelligence that a joint CIA-DIA effort be undertaken to provide a basis from which the estimates you require can be made. This study would investigate the feasibility of evacuating a limited number of sample Soviet cities, the visibility of evacuations and the availability of shelter in probable evacuation areas. The results of the study would be expected to provide a basis for making the more comprehensive quantitative estimates you requested. I have directed that your staff be kept fully apprised of the progress on the proposed joint effort.

In view of the above, please reconsider your suggestion regarding the publication of a SNIE. If you find that a less comprehensive, qualitative discussion which elaborates on what is contained in NIE 11-3-68 would be useful, please let me know and I will request that the USIB Chairman consider the matter.

Sincerely,

DIA review completed.

JOSEPH F. CARROLL
Lieutenant General, USAF
Director