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26 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT : Follow-up to Briefing of Senator Stennis and Bomber Defense Subcommittee, 24 March 1969

1. In further response to one of Mr. Kendall's final questions, these are the estimated Soviet heavy bomber numbers during the coming ten years:

Mid-1970:	105 - 110 Bears	
	<u>75 - 85</u> Bisons	(including tankers)
	180 - 195	
Mid-1973:	90 - 105 Bears	
	<u>60 - 75</u> Bisons	(including tankers)
	150 - 180	
Mid-1978:	30 - 50 Bears	
	<u>20 - 40</u> Bisons	(including tankers)
	50 - 90	

2. In response to Senator Stennis' query--Soviet heavy bombers represent what percentage of Soviet intercontinental nuclear attack capability?--we must answer in several ways.

a. In terms of numbers of delivery vehicles (aircraft, ICBMs, and SLBMs), heavy bombers and ASM carriers make up about 10 percent of the Soviet intercontinental delivery capability. We do not include tankers in this calculation.

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b. In terms of both megatonnage and numbers of individual warheads, heavy bombers can deliver 10-15 percent of the total Soviet intercontinental threat, depending on the mix of weapons carried.

c. According to present estimates, these percentages will steadily decrease over the next few years as new ICBMs and SLBMs become operational and the bomber force declines.

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