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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Washington

30 January 1964

OSD DECLASSIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

Honorable John A. McCone
Director, Central Intelligence
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear John:

We have made substantial progress in the past year in refining our estimates of Soviet general purpose forces. I have been particularly pleased with the joint effort in this field by CIA and DIA which was reflected most recently in the new estimate, NIE 11-14-63, "Capabilities of the Soviet General Purpose Forces, 1963-1969." I would appreciate your passing on my thanks to those persons responsible for this work.

I believe that this new estimate gives us a much sounder basis for our planning and for planning within NATO. But along with a better picture of the true general purpose force strengths of the USSR, the estimate does reveal limits to our knowledge. I am optimistic that further progress can be made toward definitive calculation of the strengths and weaknesses of the Soviets. I will be interested in seeing the results of your follow-on studies of costing, equipment production and inventory, and tables of organization and equipment.

I have sent a similar communication to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Sincerely,

/S/
BOB

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