

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, USIB

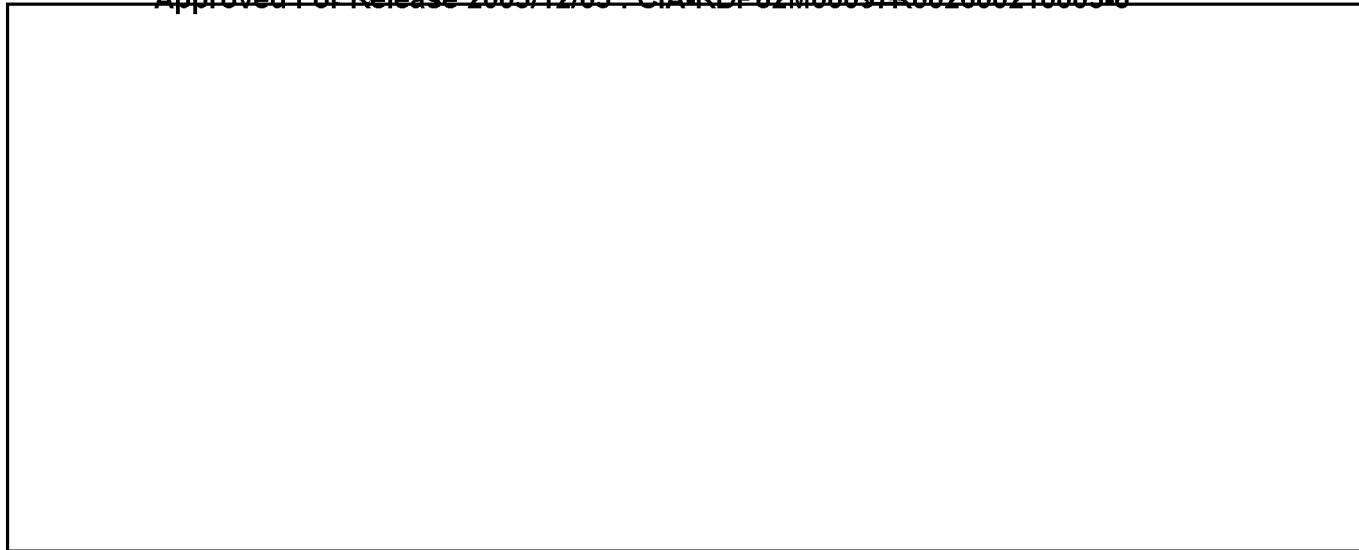
SUBJECT : Secretariat Summary of USIB Agenda for 12 December

- Item 1 Watch Report
Draft by Watch Committee to be circulated for Board approval;
Sponsor -
- Item 2 NIE on Soviet and East European General Purpose Forces
BNE draft coordinated with USIB Representatives for USIB
approval; Sponsor - Mr. Abbot Smith

This is the last of the series of three annual major estimates on Soviet military capabilities and is urgently required to provide the basis for the First U.S. Position Paper for MC 161 which must be delivered to NATO capitals by 15 January. This is the first version of 11-14 to present firm general conclusions, derived from the CIA-DIA Joint Study, regarding the fundamental reassessment of Soviet and East European general purpose forces. NIE 11-14-67 indicated only that the reassessment was beginning and the Memorandum for Holders in May was an interim report of limited scope. In this estimate BNE has featured the information from the Joint Study because it has been so widely advertised and because it is fundamental to both the conclusions and BNE's confidence in them. This paper is also longer than usual in order to explain the basis of the new findings. BNE anticipates that, with confidence established in the new information, future 11-14s will not need to be as lengthy.

The process of coordination was prolonged and difficult, but BNE believes that general agreement has been obtained to the essential propositions. In his briefing memorandum Mr. Abbot Smith discusses some of the issues which caused problems during coordination of this estimate and explains the only two dissenting footnotes by State and NSA:

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The USIB member agencies concerned have been called to remind them of the Board's agreement that, in the case of major estimates such as this one, each USIB Principal is requested to communicate any substantive changes or footnotes he plans to propose in this estimate to the other Board Principals at least 24 hours prior to the USIB meeting.



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Executive Secretary, USIB

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