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1. It is five o'clock in the morning at Sinope. One by one the fishing boats glide towards the old port. Lights have appeared in a few windows to welcome them. Everything else seems to be asleep.
2. On the highlands nearby cigarettes have burned all night long, and real Turkish coffee has been drunk. Observers have stood guard next to tremendous telescopes. They're mounted on the platforms of eight US Army trucks arranged in a semicircle facing the Black Sea.
3. "Less than 500 kilometers / Collector's Note: Believed nearer 180 to 200 miles to the north-northwest, as the crows fly, lies the Soviet naval port of Sevastopol. A hundred years ago its ships swept down on Sinope, the little seaport town in the north of old Bithynia, and completely destroyed an Ottoman fleet.
4. "Today the submarines with the Red Star are once again on the prowl from Istanbul to Trebizond, protecting the maneuvers of their high seas squadrons. More and more of these ships are equipped with launching platforms for guided missiles.

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5. "The telescopes of Sinope, which easily sweep all the points of the coast, eagerly study the trajectory and performance of these rockets.
6. "Two dozen people work busily around the trucks--the air show almost always takes place in early dawn. They are operating the triangular antennae of the radar, the cameras, the microphones and communicating by radio telephone with the two balloons of the Turkish 'weather service,' which float up above between the sky and sea among the fading stars.
7. "A jeep comes racing up. A young colonel of the air force gets out, salutes the military personnel, and disappears into a listening truck. An observer who is used to these goings-on passes by happily and declares: 'When the boss arrives, that means perhaps the show will go on.'
8. "'Perhaps?'
9. "'Hup!' he says, 'Don't imagine Radio Moscow tells us these things. We only have the advantage of guesses from our own private grapevine and even at that we get little nine times out of ten.'
10. "Over a loudspeaker come technical instructions, unintelligible to the uninitiated. Other voices answer back a little annoyed: 'Okay, we're waiting--but till tomorrow!'
11. "Wait until tomorrow? The wait has already become intolerable. Dozens of pairs of field glasses, photoelectric cells, supersensitive lenses are pointed towards the horizon. Will the Soviets take pity on us?
12. "'Since the beginning of August 1953 the Soviet navy has been experimenting with two types of rockets in the North Sea,' explains the person talking to me. 'There are those which are launched from special platforms built on the surface ships and others launched from submarines underwater.'
13. "'Those must be special submarines?'
14. "'Yes and No.' 'In general they are ships of the "Walther XXVI" type, driven by oxy-hydrogen diesel turbines [Collector's Note: Word "diesel" probably included in error.] which can remain in action at any depth for several weeks. For the launching of smaller caliber projectiles, there are also submarines of the German "Seehund" class. In general, they are not over 15 meters long and can be operated by five or six men.'
15. "'So that these latter especially are able to guide the most daring sort of operation?'
16. "'Exactly, and they often maneuver along the Turkish coast with Batum in Georgia and the Bulgarian port of Varna as the nearest bases.'
17. "'Then I suppose their rockets are what we're waiting for right now?'
18. "'It's possible, although larger ships frequently sail less than 20 miles from here.'
19. "What is happening? The scream of a siren rends the air. Far off to the east bursting forth from the fog comes a hollow-sounding chain of explosions. Out there on the sea a tapered shape rises at the tip of a jet of flames three times as long as itself and its size immediately grows smaller... [it looks like] an airplane...and...dust....
20. "For the observers of the central truck, the rocket is still identifiable. The radars are picking up the signals it is sending out and following its trajectory into the continually higher regions of the atmosphere.
21. "An officer wearing earphones has unfolded a celestial chart divided up into small cells like a fever chart. The loudspeaker of the telemeter operators announces 'stop' and pointing his fountain pen, he shows, after a minute, an extreme point reached by the missile--82,600 meters. 'Not bad,' says he like

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- a connoisseur. 'Now it's coming down.'
22. "Where will it land?"
23. "Oh, sometimes in the Black Sea, the Russian Black Sea,' my friend says, 'the No. 1 testing ground of Georgi Malenkov's guided rockets.'
24. They have been building these missiles since the spring of 1952 in the secret airplane factories of Chugotshak in Outer Mongolia and in the laboratories of the Lyakhov Islands in the Sea of Laptev, formerly the Barents Sea.
25. "A team of Soviet technical experts, estimated by the inter-allied information services to number 110, is working there under the direction of Prof. Nikolai Semenov and his German assistants. When a prototype is completed, it is generally sent for flight tests to the Sochi Station on the Black Sea, the domain of Professor Broletsky, who is famous for his studies relating to natural phenomena of radio activity and cosmic rays at high altitudes.
26. "Once the rockets have been adopted by the high command of the red army, they are handed over to the air force of the navy. So in recent months certain different types have been entrusted to the powerful Third Fleet of the Black Sea--this Third Fleet, whose impressive cruisers of the 'Sverdlov' and 'Kirov' classes are a half-diplomatic, half-strategic reply to the presence of US, British and Allied fleets, which take turns anchoring on the other side of the Bosphorus.
27. "On board the ships a good number of Soviet commanders are accompanied by German engineers, refugees from the famous aeronautical research center of Peenemuende. Three members of the former staff of Professor Werner von Braun (who has been working since the end of World War II for the US Army) captured by the Soviets have handed on to them the fruits of their experience with the first flying bombs.
28. "The devotees of these weapons and the authors of the numberless fantastic stories in the Sunday supplements have predicted that they would shortly replace bombers and interceptors. The experts are unanimous in saying that such a radical transformation could not take place in less than 20 years or so.
29. "At the present time [mid-November 1953] the fact is that a guided rocket is a missile of which the course alone can be modified after its departure either by radio or by an autonomous mechanism. Besides it presents these three advantages from the military point of view. It can navigate in any weather and it can react more firmly than a human plane, at least in certain circumstances, and it can make a surprise attack on the enemy.
30. "Except for that the rocket must be considered above all as a weapon whose maintenance on a wartime basis cost infinitely less in peacetime than do heavy-weight or ultra-rapid squadrons, and there is no doubt on the basis of this principle, which was already accepted earlier by the weakened Luftwaffe, that the Soviets in the last eight years have undertaken construction of more and more highly perfected prototypes.
31. "It was on 14 Sep 44, as we know, that a German V-2 rocket launched from the little island of Rugen in the Baltic Sea rose for the first time to an altitude of 175 kilometers.
32. "This record proved difficult to beat up until the time when the US and the Soviets, both of whom inherited some of the rockets of Peenemuende and some of the engineers, manufactured two and three stage rockets, which have been so often described by all the newspapers of the world. Then within a few months of each other, they penetrated more than 180 kilometers into the ignosphere. To propel these ships the chemists had recourse to a fuel which the same specialists of the Reich had begun to use: hydrazene. Some have considered this the miracle material of the half century; however, it's not a very recent substance. Hydrazene was perfected by scientists from the other side of the Rhine. It is a compound of nitrogen and oxygen which is made starting from ammonia.
33. "At the time, science didn't see very well what to do with this astonishing liquid which is very similar to water but which has fearful drawbacks. Hydra-

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which was to contain it was likely to provoke a frightful explosion.

34. "At all events it is considered that two years after the hostilities the Soviet laboratory had already used hydrazene for the propulsion of submarines and torpedoes. Since then its stability has been improved more and more, and its very high heat energy and its impressive energy coefficient have made it the most commonly used fuel for high performance rockets.
35. "Everything leads us to believe that the specialists of Chugatchuk and of the Lyakhov Islands have tried especially to use this explosive to improve the power of the V weapons which they captured, among others, in the subterranean arsenals of Ruegon: the 'Asserfall,' the 'Rothkappchen,' the 'Sommerling,' the 'Euzen,' and the 'Fritz X-4.'
36. "They have made several types of them," said the observer at Sinope, 'subsonic, transonic, and supersonic. Some are suitable for land strategy, others for air force, and very special models for the navy.'
37. "'But haven't the US and Great Britain had just as much success?'
38. "'Certainly and even more, but unfortunately starting from earlier models, and this delay has been made up only by the projecting of the supersonic tracking (automatic target-seeking) rocket of the Nike class.'
39. "'Do you think it could completely effectively intercept an attack of Fritz X-4's as headlines have affirmed?'
40. "'No. Let's not exaggerate. Certainly not for the moment. Offensive rockets will continue to be more powerful for a long time I think and especially when they are launched from submarines underwater.'
41. "This opinion is shared by most of the Western experts. It takes on a double importance if you study attentively the different allied naval airbooks and especially the UK Jane's Fighting Ships, which is famous for its accuracy. This examination justifies the conclusion which is that reached by the French Admiral, Berlot, in a recent study that the USSR at the present time [as of mid-November 1953] possesses the largest submarine fleet in the world. At the beginning of 1953 the number of submarines was 350 or 370 in service or in reserve. Fifty, and according to the latest Jane's Fighting Ships even 120, may be at this moment under construction.
42. "The Soviet submarines are divided into three categories: coastal, medium and ocean-going. The first has a hundred units or so constructed before 1940, from 160 to 220 tons with the speed of eight knots underwater and armed with semi-heavy guns. The medium type has 70 or 80 units, constructed between 1930 and 1940, armed with torpedo tubes. The S-class of 700 to 800 tons has a surface speed of 19 knots. The ocean-going type, which is the most powerful, has at least 120 units. It has been under construction since the end of World War II. The L-class of 1,560 tons can make 23 knots on the surface and 18 underwater. It has two one-millimeter guns and ten torpedo tubes. Its radius of action is 7,000 miles, which permits it to cross the Atlantic and return to its base without coming to the surface.
43. "Is it necessary to resort to sensationalism to get people to admit the seriousness of such a threat? And it is a threat which can be directed as well against the peripheral zones of Western Europe.
44. "We already know that the island of Ruegon for the northern sectors and the base of Saseno on the Albanian coast have been transformed into vast submarine hangars whose fortifications can protect stocks of atomic weapons and can withstand atomic bombardment.
45. "The ports of Sevastopol and of Odessa are now being provided with the same accommodations. Their anti-aircraft artillery is little by little being transformed into battalions of guided missiles. Scientific circles believe it is possible to affirm that within approximately 18 months these weapons should participate effectively in the total security system of Soviet territory in case of war.

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- 46. "Information from neutral sources has estimated that at the beginning of last February (1953) the Soviet Air Force had 20 thousand supersonic units, a third of which were guided missiles.
- 47. "This figure appears to be accepted by NATO circles in Europe. The Fritz X-4 especially is said to be the favorite weapon. Since it uses a very short launching platform at sea, it can leave the ship at any angle. Its projector can be modified during flight from a control stage placed on the ship, on land, or aboard a plane. As for the US rockets 'Regulus,' 'Terrier,' 'Sparrow,' or 'Nike,' the direction change is communicated to the mechanism by a radio-direction apparatus housed in the cap of the rocket.
- 48. "It is thought that the speed of the high performance of the Fritz X-4 reaches four times the speed of sound. It is supposed to find its target with an almost mathematical precision. Class-L submarines can transport and launch 57 units of this type.
- 49. "In short, the experts of the entire world find themselves in this paradoxical situation. The conventional piloted planes are at the mercy of rockets; the rockets are at the mercy of methods of interception. Each menace is promptly followed by its antidote; but each antidote in turn by another menace!
- 50. "In a London newspaper there appeared this caricature which Bernard Shaw would have liked:

Each of two armies face to face refuses to use the most modern weapons for fear of reprisals; so they go back to fighting with bows and arrows."

Rocket

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