

**SECRET**

JAN 30 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Request from Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy

1. In the letter attached at TAB A, the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy has requested:

a. A written estimate of Soviet capabilities to "impair, prevent, or frustrate the delivery of U. S. atomic weapons to targets inside Russia".

b. A presentation, either written or oral, of the evidence on which the recent report on the Soviet atomic energy program is based.

2. It is apparent that the first request necessitates an appraisal of Soviet defensive capabilities in terms of U. S. offensive capabilities. In this respect, the request is analagous to the NATO paper, (NIE-13), in that U. S. operational information is a significant consideration. This estimate can be prepared with the assistance of the other IAC agencies, and if arrangements are made with the Secretary of Defense for participation of Weapons Systems Evaluation Group, which has done considerable work on this general subject. Appropriate implementing memoranda are being prepared for your approval.

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4. A reply to the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy is attached at TAB B for your consideration.

[Redacted] Assistant Director Scientific Intelligence

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Concurrences:

[Redacted] Jan 30 '51  
Assistant Director, IC Date

[Redacted] Jan 30 '51  
Assistant Director, NE Date

[Redacted] Jan 30 '51  
Legislative Counsel Date

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