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RUSSIA DEPLOYS

Administration Will Probably
Urge Poseidon Production,
Pentagon Chief Reports

AIM IS BETTER OFFENSE

New U.S. Submarine Missile
Could Surpass Polaris in
Penetrating Defenses

By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr.
Special to The New York Times

JOHNSON CITY, Tex., Nov. 10.—Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara said today there was "considerable evidence" that the Soviet Union was building and deploying an anti-ballistic missile system, probably requiring an increase in the United States' offensive capacity.

The Secretary said that the Administration would probably recommend to Congress that the United States begin production and deployment of the Poseidon missile, a large submarine-launched missile with greater power than the Polaris missile to penetrate sophisticated defense systems.

In the past Mr. McNamara has told Congress that the Russians were developing a missile defense system and were expected to deploy it as soon as it was perfected. His statement today suggests that the Johnson Administration believes such deployment is now taking place.

Poseidon Funds Granted

In the defense budget submitted to Congress last January, Mr. McNamara asked, and got, funds to develop the Poseidon missile. He has now recommended to the President deployment of this missile as a counter to the Russian defense system.

Mr. McNamara reported today that no decision had yet been made to deploy—that is, produce and locate at sites in the United States—the controversial Nike-X anti-air missile, on which \$600-million has already been spent for research and development.

Regarding the Poseidon Mr. McNamara said that development of the missile would require almost \$2-billion in Federal expenditures. He said its deployment would cost "several additional billions."

2d Conference in Week

Among other things, deployment of the Poseidon would mean complete re-engineering of the launch tubes on this country's fleet of Polaris submarines from which the missiles would be launched if necessary.

The Secretary said that this and other "refitting" changes would cost "somewhat in excess" of 60 per cent of the initial cost of the Polaris submarines.

Mr. McNamara flew to the LBJ Ranch this morning to confer with President Johnson on defense and budgetary matters. This afternoon, he addressed newsmen in the front yard of the Johnson home before returning to the capital.

Today marked Mr. McNamara's third extended conference with the President in the last week in preparation for the supplemental military budget requests for the present fiscal

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McNAMARA HINTS AT DEFENSE PERIL

The Antimissile Issue McNamara's Call for Improved Offense May Be Designed to Forestall Pressure

By WILLIAM BEECHER

Special to The New York Times

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1
year and requests for the fiscal year 1968.

On the subject of United States antimissile missiles, Mr. McNamara said he has discussed with Mr. Johnson the possible deployment of such systems, but had concluded that "it is much too early to make a decision for deployment against the Chinese threat, and we have not arrived at a decision on any other deployment."

He did not, however, rule out the future deployment of the Nike X system against Soviet offensive missiles, adding that "we will continue our discussions on this subject for some weeks to come."

On the relationship between the Nike-X system and the Chinese threat, the Secretary said: "The length of time required to deploy such a system is less than the length of time required for the Chinese Communists to develop nuclear weapons that conceivably could threaten this nation. Therefore, it is not timely at this time to make a decision to deploy such a system to defend against the Chinese Communist threat."

Mr. McNamara, coatless and relaxed in the warm Texas sun, also assured his listeners that development of an anti-ballistic missile system by the Soviet Union had not removed the United States' capacity to penetrate that country. He declared: "There is absolutely no question about our capability of penetrating the Soviet defenses with both our missiles and our aircraft."

He said "there had been no question about that" during the last 15 years and "there is no question about it now when they are similarly trying to defend against intercontinental ballistic missiles."

In his opening remarks, the Secretary had indicated that the Soviet Union was building a new antimissile system. News-men then asked Mr. McNamara whether the Russians were in fact doing so.

"Yes," he replied. "I believe there is considerable evidence that they are."

"Is it an effective system?" asked one questioner.

'We Must Assume'

"I think you would have to ask them," he replied. But he added, "We must assume it is effective."

Asked when the Russians started deploying the system, he said he would "rather not try to approximate the date," but added unequivocally:

"They have started such development."

As a result, Mr. McNamara reported, "we recommended, and I believe will present to the Congress, a proposal to produce and deploy the Poseidon offensive system."

He described the Poseidon as "a new missile for deployment at sea." Initial development work on the missile was begun under the budget for the current, fiscal year, 1967. Greatly expanded funds, however, would be required to produce the missile and refit the Polaris submarines to accommodate it.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10.—Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara's disclosure that the United States now believes Russia probably is deploying a missile defense around the Soviet Union may be the opening round in an Administration effort to stave off potentially overwhelming Congressional pressure for the United States to follow News Analysis

suit with its own advance systems of missile killers. In making his announcement today at the LBJ Ranch in Texas, Mr. McNamara offered a sane immediate answer to the new strategic threat a move to improve America's offense rather than its defense.

He recommended to the President, he said, the rapid replacement of the current breed of submarine-launched Polaris missiles with a much larger Poseidon missile. Poseidon would be able to carry roughly twice the payload of Polaris and thus could be jam-packed with a variety of penetration devices designed to fool the Soviet defenses and slip through to its target.

Role of Nike-X

While the Defense Secretary did not foreclose a decision to deploy, as well, an American missile defense, called Nike-X his remarks suggested another postponement of that decision.

In the past, he repeatedly has taken the position that even a widespread Nike-X system, costing upward of \$20-billion, would not prevent the Soviet Union, in an all-out attack, from killing tens of millions of American citizens, and that such a defense against that threat therefore did not seem attractive.

A much cheaper, thinner Nike-X system has been proposed to protect the United States against a smaller, less sophisticated threat that the Chinese may one day pose.

Mr. McNamara has said, however, that since the Chinese Communists are not expected to have a large number of intercontinental ballistic missiles until about 1975, and since the Nike-X system would take only about six or seven years to deploy, a decision may also be deferred in terms of the Chinese threat.

Position Restated

Mr. McNamara repeated the essence of his position vis-à-vis the Chinese today. This suggests no change in the Administration's estimate of China's missile deployment timetable as a result of her recent testing of a medium range, atomic-tipped missile.

Top Defense Department strategists are of mixed opinion about the necessary combination of offensive and defensive systems necessary to insure America's ability to deter a nuclear war or, if deterrence fails, to contend with it and survive.

All planners, military and

civilian, agree that the United States must put primary emphasis on assuring that even after absorbing a surprise attack, enough missiles will survive to wipe out the enemy.

As long as the Soviet Union is convinced that the United States retains this capability, the argument goes, it cannot rationally initiate a nuclear war and thereby risk national suicide.

In line with this reasoning, the United States has spent tens of billions of dollars building Minuteman missiles that are protected against attack in concrete and steel silos buried deep underground, and submarine-based Polaris missiles, which are protected against surprise attack by the ocean.

Looking toward the possibility of a Soviet missile defense, the Administration has over the last five years spent more than \$1-billion on a variety of hush-hush devices aimed at penetrating such defenses. Such devices may be installed on both land-based and sea-based missiles; the larger the missile, the more penetration aids it can carry.

Some Would Go Further

Many strategists, including the five members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, would go still further. They would deploy the Nike-X missile defense system to reduce damage in the United States should the unthinkable happen and nuclear war erupt, whether by design or accident.

More than \$2-billion has been spent over the years developing the Nike-X system. It is supposed to work this way:

Its long-range radars would pick up enemy missiles many hundreds of miles distant and would guide Nike Zeus missiles to intercept them anywhere from 50 to 400 miles from the United States. If some missiles should slip through this net, they would be attacked by superfast Sprint missiles, which are designed to intercept at lower altitudes.

In preparing his new defense budget, for submission to Congress in January, Mr. McNamara is faced once again with the Nike-X problem. Some officials believe he still feels the time is not right for deployment.

But Congress showed its impatience this year when it appropriated nearly \$168-million more for Nike-X development than the Administration asked.

If Mr. McNamara had waited until Congress found out, through its own sources, that the Russians were likely putting in a comprehensive missile defense, a tremendous clamor might have developed for the United States to do likewise.

But, by taking the offensive, by announcing Soviet activity and demonstrating Administration resolve to deal with it with better offensive missiles, the steam might be taken out of the drive for meeting defense with a better defense.

Transcript of Joint News Conference by President, McNamara and Gen. Wheeler

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn., Nov. 10—This is the official transcript of a news conference at the LBJ Center involving the President, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

JOHNSON STATEMENT

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I asked Secretary McNamara and General Wheeler to come here today. General Wheeler had gone to South Vietnam with Secretary McNamara, but did not come with him today. I wanted to review with them together some developments in South Vietnam that they observed when they were there, some plans that we must make for the next year in connection with our Defense Department budget, and matters that the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of Defense normally discuss with the President.

McNAMARA STATEMENT

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. As the President mentioned, General Wheeler and I have discussed with him this morning our operations in Vietnam and the outlook for the defense program and the defense budget in fiscal 1969. General Wheeler will comment upon our report on Vietnam, and I will spend a few minutes before we discuss other questions regarding certain aspects of our defense budget discussions. This was the third of these discussions. We had our first with the President last Friday, our second on Saturday, and the third today. We, of course, had prepared to make a statement on the 10th, funds to be requested, nor over to review in any detail specific details of that budget. But we did cover four aspects of it this morning.

The Position Missile

Secondly, we discussed the possible production of the Poseidon missile. You may recall that this is a new missile which was initiated as part of the 1967 budget as an insurance program. It is estimated at the time this missile was produced that it would cost almost \$2-billion to develop several additional billions to produce and deploy that system. This requires a complete restructuring of our Polaris submarines at a cost somewhat in excess of 60 per cent of the initial cost of those Polaris subs.

Desirable Construction

We then considered the supplement to the 1968 defense budget. As the President reported to you last Saturday, it will be necessary to have such a supplement. The requirements for our defense program are such that we must have a supplement to the 1968 program. We will require a supplement to the 1967 program, and we will require a supplement to the 1968 program.

Desirable Construction

As the President mentioned, we considered the basic program that we will follow as a foundation for our defense program in fiscal 1969. This is the President's instructions for every possible course of action that we can take that can be deferred without adversely affecting our security. This is in order to soften the transition following the termination of hostilities in Southeast Asia, the transition to our peacetime economy.

Desirable Construction

I will be very happy to take your questions on anything I have said today or on any other aspect of the defense program.

QUESTIONS

I. Soviet Missile System

Q. Mr. Secretary, I know you say you can't go into detail with respect to the supplemental, but is there any indication now as to whether it would be larger or smaller than your earlier indications?

A. No, we have not completed our review of it. The Joint Chiefs are still reviewing certain aspects of the program. They have not completed their recommendations to me, nor have I to the President. So I am not in any position to even approximate the total amount of funds to be requested of the Congress. But I think it is clear that the President said Saturday and as I am reporting to you now, that we will have such a supplement.

2. Supplementary Funds

Q. Mr. Secretary, when did the Russians start deploying this system?

A. I would rather not try to approximate the date. I will simply indicate to you what we have said heretofore, that they have started to make such deployments and the Congress previously, that they will do so, that they will deploy an effective system.

3. Soviet Deployment

Q. Mr. Secretary, when did the Russians start deploying this system?

A. Yes, we have the Nike-X system under development at the present time. On that system we are expending \$1 billion a year for several years. We believe it to be a very advanced system of antiballistic missile defense.

4. Nike-X System

Q. Mr. Secretary, how about our own Nike-X system?

A. Certainly not. There is absolutely no question about our capability of penetrating the Soviet defenses with our missiles and aircraft. There has been no question about that at any time during the past 10 years and there is no question about it now.

5. Soviet Capacity

Q. Mr. Secretary, if you please, on the ballistic missile system?

A. Yes, we are just in the early stages of the development of nuclear weapons and, so far as we know, we believe we are developing an antiballistic missile system.

6. War in Vietnam

Q. Does this affect the war in Vietnam?

A. We will keep our European forces, and we are prepared to keep them, at current levels. Early this year we announced that we were temporarily willing to reduce our forces in Europe.

7. Draft Outlets

Q. Mr. Secretary, what effect will your announced draft cutbacks have on the military?

A. I am sure we will request an opportunity to meet on future occasions. Among the subjects we will discuss at that time will, of course, be the possibility of an advanced managed bomber.

WHEELER STATEMENT

As the President mentioned, I discussed with him this morning the progress of the war in South Vietnam. It is interesting to note that it is just about a year ago in a series of battles in the Antrung Valley near the Cambodian border, General Westwood's forces, defeated, with substantial losses, the North Vietnamese Army, 325th Regiment.

House somewhat exceeded what our better people who had reports on it would indicate, although I was clear to point out that the majority of the reports from the candidates themselves.

A 2-Party System

There are some things that I think we ought to observe. First, as a good American, I think it is very glad to see a healthy and competent existence of the two-party system. I think there is no question but what the other party deserves its position.

Second, I believe, as the leadership of the Republican party, President Eisenhower, Senator Dirksen and others believe, that it will not in any way change our course of action in connection with security matters.

I have had rather good cooperation from the opposition. I have stated on a good many occasions on all matters affecting the security of this nation, and I expect to continue to have that.

Third, while you regret to see some effective Congressmen—and certainly Senator Douglas, an effective Senator—leave Washington, not many Presidents have been President for very long with 248, 249 or 250 members of the House and 64 members of the Senate.

I hope what we propose will be sufficiently meritorious to command a majority vote.

Recalls Senate Days

The most effective Democratic operations in the Senate in the days I served there was when we only had a one-man margin in the Senate. There were few absences and more people there.

Successful Operations

The Operation Attleboro, in Thang Province, near the Cambodian border northwest of Saigon, General Bill Deane and troops of the First Infantry Division, First Cavalry Division and the 5th Infantry Division have been engaged in very successful operations against the North Vietnamese troops.

I would be less than frank if I didn't tell you that I am sorry we lost any Democratic seat. But I would tell you that we don't know whether you will be busy at a hospital in the early part of the week right now or not. Just what day it will be, we don't know.

I would like to point out one other thing, that on most of the full-scale Great Society bills, you had a good many members of the other party. I think that is a very commendable and meritorious, that they will command support from some of them in the days ahead.

10. Use of Gas

General, according to the news reports today, the Vietnam have a belief that the use of gas is the first step against our troops. Do you see any special significance on that action?

I don't know that this is true. You will remember that we had a gas attack at a rather early hour this morning and when I checked with the command center before I left, I received no report. If it is true, I would say it represents a certain sophistication, additional sophistication, of their efforts in analyzing it fully in my opinion and we did not have that on our agenda this morning.

Request by Johnson

THE PRESIDENT: I will be glad to do some questions. I would like to ask General Wheeler or the broadcasting people, if they want to originate some news there in the back. Then I will sit with all of you for extended visits, as visits as you want.

11. Effect of Elections

Mr. President, now that you have a chance to further evaluate the General Westwood's forces. When I say his forces, I am speaking not only of Americans, but also the Australians, the New Zealanders, the Republic of Korea forces, and the Republic of Vietnam forces.

In a series of quite extensive battles, Hastings, which took place near the demilitarized zone, the 1st Cavalry Operation Prairie, which, again, took place and is taking place today, near the demilitarized zone, the 1st Cavalry Marines have managed to frustrate and defeat an attempt at an invasion of North Vietnam into South Vietnam by the North Vietnamese Army forces.

We did so, and we transmitted the Joint Chiefs' report on Monday. It was for a total of \$100 million for the month of January. That compares with

an Army outfit managed to defeat and seriously damage a North Vietnamese force.

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In our state we lost two, in Virginia we lost two, in Wisconsin we lost two. But as I have observed to you before, the Christian Science Monitor made a study of this question.

SAVILLE Davis came to my office and brought me the results of some of his studies. He carried them back to 1910. They showed an average of 41 per cent. Some of the high years were with President Roosevelt, when he carried every state of the Union, except Maine and Vermont, in 1936. I believe he lost 86 votes in 1936. That was the first time I came into Congress. I remember that very clearly.

On other occasions they have posted 60. President Eisenhower served only two years before he lost the Congress entirely.

As a matter of fact, a fellow working for me the other morning, after listening the night before, thought we had lost the Congress entirely. As a matter of fact, he thought all Democrats were gone.

I asked him what he thought about the election and he said, "I am sorry to see them take the House of Representatives and the Senate."

Where the doctors have not decided yet. We have several doctors living in various places that will need to be here. Mr. Burley is now conferring with them, and talking to them, trying to get their schedule on a date that they can agree on, sometime, we hope, in less than the 15- to 20-day period that we originally thought of.

13. Time of Surgery

Q. Mr. President, is there anything further you can tell me about the when and where your surgery will take place?

A. No, it will take place next week. So you don't have to worry about this week. Where the doctors have not decided yet. We have several doctors living in various places that will need to be here. Mr. Burley is now conferring with them, and talking to them, trying to get their schedule on a date that they can agree on, sometime, we hope, in less than the 15- to 20-day period that we originally thought of.

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I would like to point out one other thing, that on most of the full-scale Great Society bills, you had a good many members of the other party. I think that is a very commendable and meritorious, that they will command support from some of them in the days ahead.

14. New Programs

Q. In terms of your Great Society program, when the 90th Congress meets, do you think you will have a lot of new programs are you looking to the future with plans of adding on and expanding the programs that you have had in the last couple of years?

A. I said to you in Fredericksburg the other day, we have authorized some new health and education programs. We have quite a problem in funding that.

We will not fund most of the programs at the amount authorized because we are very anxious to get the money out carefully, and form the proper kind of organization before we go the limit, as already approved by the Congress.

I hope to have a chance to visit with most of the new members in the early days of the session, certainly with the leadership to participate.

I don't anticipate that we are going to have any great trouble. A 65 majority in the House and a 30 majority in the Senate is a reasonable working majority.

As I told you, in six of the eight years the Republicans served, they had very few two party houses. The Speakers and the organization and committee chairmen.

I think I must be frank. I would have liked to have seen every Democrat elected, but we only lost one incumbent in the Senate. I expect the Senate will get along reasonably well with 64, instead of 67.

15. Move Into Delta

Q. Mr. President, this is not a military question. Would you comment on the reports that American forces may move into the Delta? A. No, I don't have anything to say about that.

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