

McNamara Discounts Russian ABMs

By The Associated Press
 Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara has insisted anew that Soviet antiballistic missiles cannot be effective and has said that despite them a U.S. strike-back should kill 120 million Russians.

And he added in testimony to Senate committees:

"It's very easy to change the pattern of targeting to raise that upwards."

McNamara made these assessments when he testified in secret before the Armed Services and Appropriations committees in late January.

Censored transcripts released last night showed McNamara repeatedly parrying the critical questions of senators who feel the United States should start promptly the construction of Nike X antiballistic missile defenses.

Questioners noted that the Soviet Union already is building antimissile installations around Moscow and perhaps elsewhere.

Effectiveness Discounted

McNamara not only discounted the effectiveness of these but added that the Russians "have an absolute religious fanaticism on the subject of defense."

He said proof of this can be found in their huge expenditures on ground-to-air missile defenses against bomber attacks—installations which McNamara said now are obsolete or unneeded in a ballistic missile age.

He said this is based on Moscow's fear of a first blow by the United States, despite this nation's tradition and policy of never striking first.

In the event of a Soviet nuclear attack on the United States, the retaliatory blow would be aimed at their people, McNamara made clear.

United States to spend the \$40 billion or more needed to deploy an extensive Nike X antimissile system over a period of several years.

Senator Russell Unconvinced

But he added: "I only argue against it because it costs \$40 billion and wouldn't be effective . . . the Soviets would take action to offset it. It isn't the \$40 billions that concern me . . . what we would buy in this case, in my opinion, would offer no addition to our security and no addition to our defense."

It was obvious that McNamara didn't convince all the senators. Sen. Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, voiced his misgivings this way:

"The first nation that gets an effective antimissile and antisubmarine device is going to control the world. It is just that simple."

But when McClellan asked for committee the latest cost estimates, McNamara mates as soon as the analyses said "I will be happy to give the are completed."

Want Them to Know

He put it this way: "I think we could all agree that if they struck us first, we are going to target our weapons against their society and . . . destroy 120 millions of them." Later he added that this toll easily could be raised.

Explaining his making public of such estimates and other data on U.S. nuclear capability, McNamara said it is because "we want our people, our allies and the Soviets, to be under no misunderstanding as to our strength . . ."

"It isn't enough for us to have the force. We must convince them we have it."

McNamara agreed that even though Vietnam war costs are running about \$22 billion a year, it would be . . . for the