

\$5 Billion 'Thin' Plan Approved

McNamara Bares Defense Program To Counter China

By George C. Wilson
Washington Post Staff Writer

The United States this year will start building a \$5-billion missile defense designed primarily to guard against a Chinese attack, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara announced yesterday.

He stressed that the go-ahead on an ABM (anti-ballistic-missile) system "in no way indicates that we feel an agreement with the Soviet Union on the limitation of strategic nuclear offensive and defensive forces is any the less urgent or desirable."

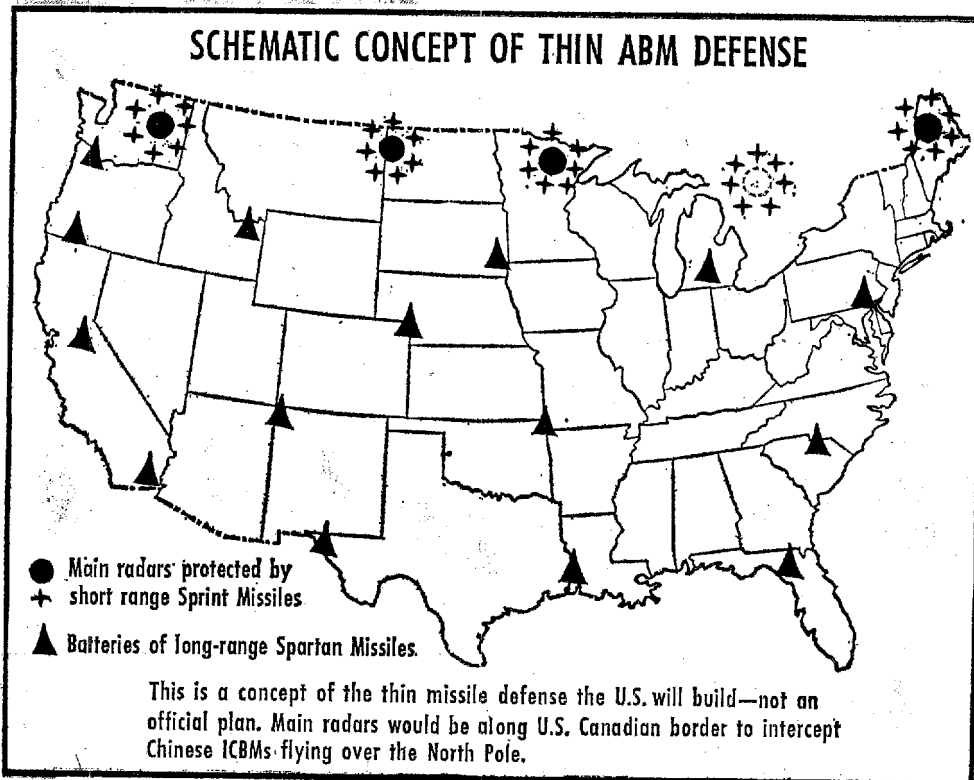
McNamara made his announcement in a major policy speech before the United Press International editors in San Francisco. The Pentagon released the text here.

About 2000 antiwar demonstrators paraded in front of the Fairmont Hotel while McNamara spoke.

Even though "it would be insane and suicidal" for the Red Chinese to launch a missile attack against the United States, McNamara said in giving the rationale for the ABM, "our strategic planning" must cover "even the possible irrational behavior of potential adversaries."

It is this consideration, McNamara said, that provides "marginal grounds for concluding" that a light, or thin, missile defense "is prudent."

Production of the ABM missiles and radars will begin before the end of the year, or the Council of State Chairman Paul Henkel, speaking at the National Association of Counties urged them to accept job training or employment with the threat of cutting off food for their children in foster homes.



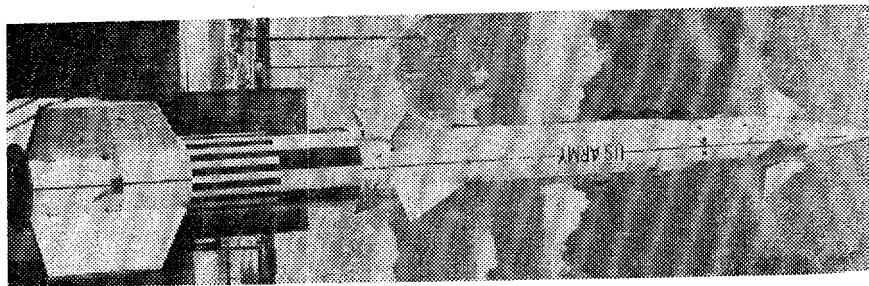
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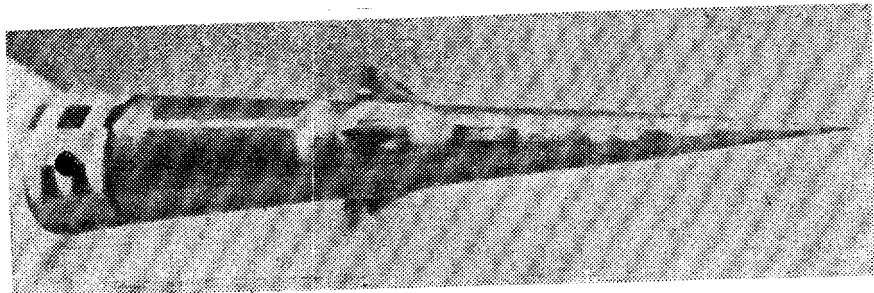
THIN DEFENSE—The missile defense the U.S. will build for \$5 billion might be laid out this way. Spartan batteries would patrol large areas. The Sprints, besides protecting radar sites, also would be placed around ICBM sites and key cities.

The Sprint would destroy any warheads which eluded Spartan out in space. Both Chinese and Soviet ICBMs would probably approach the United States from the North Polar areas. Canada would have to approve one site (broken circle).

NIKE ZEUS — Fore-runner of the Spartan, now in development stages.
U.S. Army Photo



SPRINT — The short-range missiles would protect the ICBM sites.
Associated Press



pose a "heavy" defense but did not rule out a limited one to handle early Chinese missiles. He did say in January, however, there was no rush to deploy an ABM to meet the Chinese missile threat. He said it would take China longer to build an offense than for the U.S. to build a defense, so the ABM decision "need not be made this year."

But the stunning nuclear progress of China, coupled with political pressures, evidently changed the timetable for ABM deployment.

China will have medium-range ballistic missiles "within a year or so," McNamara said yesterday, and "an initial ICBM capability in the early 1970s." This means, he said, that "the time will shortly be right" for the U.S. to go into ABM production in order to get a defense deployed in time to meet the Chinese threat.

The Johnson Administration, in relying on a thin anti-China defense, is assuming China will not have the quantity or quality of ICBMs for some time to adopt the basic U.S. strategy of trying to exhaust the defender's ABMs.

McNamara stressed that his nuclear strategy toward Russia remains unchanged.

He will fight against expanding the thin ABM system into a much more elaborate and expensive one designed to stop sophisticated Soviet missiles.

His chips instead will still go on offensive weapons, like the multiple warhead Minuteman 3 and Poseidon missiles. Poseidon will replace the Po-

laris missile on 31 of America's 41 nuclear submarines. He said the United States now has 3 or 4 to 1 superiority over Russia in deliverable warheads, pledging: "We will maintain a superiority."

No matter how much money was spent on a missile defense against Russian ICBMs, McNamara said, it would not buy the United States any real security.

"Were we to deploy a heavy ABM system through the U.S.," he told the editors yesterday, "the Soviets would clearly be strongly motivated to so increase their offensive capabilities so as to cancel out our defensive advantage."

The Defense Secretary said "it is futile for each of us to spend \$4 billion, \$40 billion or \$400 billion—and at the end of all the deployment, and at the end of all the effort—to be relatively at the same point of balance on the security scale that we are now."

McNamara does not believe the thin system now planned will "destabilize" the military balance between the U.S. and Russia, thus pushing the arms race up another spiral.

He opposed the ABM plan the military Joint Chiefs of Staff wanted, partly for fear of doing precisely that. The Chiefs unanimously backed two kinds of missile systems, called Posture A and Posture B.

Posture A—costing \$10 billion—would comprise about 1,000 long-range Spartan missiles and 100 short-range Sprints. The idea would be to let the Spartans, which inter-

cept enemy warheads far out in space, give a thin protection to the entire U.S. The Sprints, which whoosh up to intercept any warheads that elude the Spartans, would be placed around key military bases and cities.

Posture B—costing \$20 billion—would comprise the same number of Spartans, but also thousands of Sprints, to give heavy protection to cities and bases.

The \$5-billion thin defense to be built is a compromise between the bargain-basement \$3-billion ABM some Pentagon leaders favored and the \$10-billion Posture A of the military chiefs. Those are total costs, not per year.

McNamara yesterday did not detail the ABM system to be built. But earlier this year he told the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee that the population could be protected against early Chinese missiles for \$3.5 billion, with another \$800 million going for Sprints to protect offensive weapons.

There already is money in the Fiscal 1968 budget finance the next step in building an ABM—gearing up for production. Spending until now for ABM research—under the Nike X program—has been running at about \$500 million a year. This probably will jump to nearly \$1 billion in next year's budget.

Besides protecting against early Chinese missiles, McNamara said yesterday that the thin ABM to be built would further protect ICBM sites.

He said such additional protection for the U.S. force of 1000 Minuteman ICBMs would underscore for Russia and other nations the folly of trying to knock out our retaliatory missiles by surprise attack.

Another dividend of the "Chinese oriented" ABM, he said, is the chance of destroying an accidentally launched enemy ICBM before pushing the buttons that could incinerate the world.

The other advantage McNamara cited for the \$5-billion missile defense was providing "an additional indication to Asians that we intend to deter China from nuclear blackmail."

This, he said, "would contribute toward our goal of discouraging nuclear weapon proliferation among the present non-nuclear countries."

The Defense Secretary in his 25-page speech did not address himself to the other half of that equation: how to meet demands of neutrals for the kind of ABM protection the United States will now build for itself.

McNamara evidently hopes to sell the neutrals on the idea that nuclear weapons are overrated.

"The simple truth is," he said yesterday, "that nuclear weapons can serve to deter only a narrow range of threats." He said the United States could not use its nuclear monopoly right after World War II to keep the Soviets from pressing on Berlin or supporting the enemy in Korea.