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-Part 2 N. TWINING
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STILL GOING STRONG— THE U. S. DEFENSE DEBATE

The debate over U. S. defenses kept boiling. Among the debaters:

Gen. Nathan F. Twining, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He told Congress—his testimony was released February 23—that the missile gap between Russia and the U. S. is narrowing. General Twining disputed estimates that Russia could knock out all U. S. deterrent forces by attacking with 150 intercontinental missiles and 150 intermediate-range missiles. Such an attack, he said, would have to “click 100 per cent right,” and would be too big a gamble for the Russians to take. The General also testified that he had not seen some intelligence estimates given to Congress by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Allen W. Dulles, Director of CIA. He was called to a secret combined meeting of Senators from committees on space and preparedness to explain why General Twining was not given the estimates in question. After listening to Mr. Dulles, Republicans said that the CIA approaches the problem on a different basis from the Pentagon. They said Mr. Dulles had cleared everything up. Democrats disagreed.

Senator Stuart Symington (Dem.), of Missouri. He said the CIA estimates show the Russians have a “much larger” superiority in long-range missiles than defense officials have revealed. He said, “The American people are being misled.”

Senator Everett M. Dirksen (Rep.), of Illinois. He took the Senate floor to “pro-

test” against Mr. Symington’s attack on defense policy. Mr. Dirksen quoted President Eisenhower’s statement that the U. S. has built up “an indestructible force of incalculable power.”

Robert C. Sprague, New England banker and industrialist who, in 1957, headed a presidential committee that examined U. S. defenses. He told Congress that he believed the Soviet threat was “more serious” than Mr. Eisenhower had indicated.

Robert A. Lovett, a Republican who served as Secretary of Defense under President Truman. He charged, in congressional testimony, that the U. S. is doing “less than its best,” is allowing budgetary considerations to influence policy too much, and is losing prestige in the world.

(Another critical view on defense, page 24; President’s remarks, 107.)