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SOVIET POWER DATA JUGGLED TO BALANCE BUDGET, SYMINGTON SAYS

Administration Giving Public an Inaccurate Picture of National Defense Needs, Sen- ator Charges.

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By BRIG. GEN. THOMAS R. PHILLIPS, U.S.A. (Ret.)
 Military Analyst of the
 Post-Dispatch.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27—Sen-
 ator Stuart Symington (Dem.),
 Missouri, today charged "this
 administration with using intel-
 ligence information in such a
 manner that the American peo-
 ple have been given an inaccur-
 ate picture of what is necessary
 for our national defense."

"Intelligence books have been
 juggled so the budget books may
 be balanced," he asserted in a
 statement read in the Senate.

The Senator told reporters
 this morning that the gap be-
 tween United States missile pro-
 duction and that of the Soviet
 Union was more than three to
 one, in spite of the new figures.
 And the new figures, he assert-
 ed, have been downgraded as
 much as 50 per cent.

On this basis, the "missile
 gap" is more than six to one
 rather than the three-to-one fig-
 ure given last year by former
 Secretary of Defense Neil H.
 McElroy.

Secretary of Defense Thomas
 S. Gates Jr., told the House sub-
 committee on Defense appropriations
 Jan. 13 that "the Russians
 may enjoy a times a moderate
 numerical superiority during the
 next three years."

Symington pointed out that
 Gates, in discussing the "deter-
 rent gap," which Gates said did
 not exist, had used United States
 I.C.B.M.s, I.R.B.M.s and Polaris
 missiles, but had not included
 the Soviet intermediate range
 missiles and submarine-launched
 missiles in his comparison. Had
 these been included, the Senator
 asserted, the numbers of Soviet
 missiles would be far much greater
 than those of the United States

Impeachment of the President
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the serious charge against the Pres-
 ident of endangering the national
 security and misleading the
 American people, the President
 should not be impeached, Sym-
 ington said that such action was
 inconceivable.

He was, he declared, posing
 the issue in order to obtain the
 facts for the American people.
 Only if the people know the
 facts, can proper decisions be
 made in a democracy, he said.

Symington decried the practice
 of talking about weapons such as
 Polaris, Titan and Minuteman
 in such a fashion as to imply
 they were in existence. He
 pointed out that a Polaris mis-
 sile never has been fired in
 operational configuration.

The Polaris, Titan and Minute-
 man still are in the development
 stage, he declared. As for the
 claims that Atlas is operational,
 he noted that there are only
 three Atlas missiles on launch-
 ing pads at a missile training
 base in southern California.

Briefing by CIA.

Symington said that he had
 been briefed on Soviet missile
 capability by the Central Intell-
 igence Agency in July 1958.
 "Based on all the facts available
 to me, however," he said, "I
 considered that the director had
 underrated the Soviet missile de-
 velopment."

In August 1958 he requested
 an appointment with the Presi-
 dent "in order to present to him
 my apprehension about the
 planned missile gap."

The White House later wrote
 to him, he continued, and asked
 him to present his analysis to
 the Secretary of Defense and to
 Allen W. Dulles, CIA director.
 Follow up conferences were
 held, he said, but the estimates
 presented by Dulles were not
 changed.

He said that he believed that
 McElroy's estimate of a three-
 to-one gap "greatly understated
 the case, but hoped that ad-
 mission of such a gap would
 lead to acceleration of our own
 missile program." Instead, it re-
 sulted in "further downgrading
 of the Soviet missile picture,"
 he said.

Symington, in regard to the
 use of capabilities or intentions
 in intelligence estimates, quoted
 testimony by McElroy before the
 Senate Jan. 21, 1959, as follows:

"I think it would be very danger-
 ous if we did not proceed on this
 basis (Soviet capability) . . . I
 think it should be under-
 stood that we are assuming, as I think
 we should assume, that they—
 meaning the opponent—will have
 these numbers in being at the
 time the national intelligence
 estimate says that they could
 have it."

ment that the new estimates had
 been based on "what we believe
 he probably will do, not what
 he is capable of doing."

"Through this process," Sym-
 ington asserted, "the Adminis-
 tration has given the people the
 impression that the missile
 deterrent gap has been sharply
 reduced and possibly elim-
 inated."

"Without going into classified
 specifics," he continued, "I be-
 lieve it is important for the
 American people to know that
 this manipulation of data as to
 quantity also was accompanied
 by an effort to downgrade the
 Russian missiles as to quality—
 the recent impressive Soviet mis-
 sile test in the Pacific notwith-
 standing."

Wants Atlas Step-up.

As to what should be done,
 Symington said that the produc-
 tion of Atlases should be stepped
 up. The capacity is available and
 is not being used, he said. He
 noted that the recent increase
 in the Atlas program of four
 squadrons (36 operational mis-
 siles and four spares) was an
 add-on that would not be in ef-
 fect until present production is
 completed. It is not, he said, as
 many have assumed, an accel-
 eration of production.

The United States is three to
 five years behind the Soviet
 Union in space, Symington de-
 clared. He pointed out that
 Saturn, the only big booster we
 have in development that will
 enable us to match the Soviet
 moon shots, had its budget re-
 quest reduced from \$128,000,000
 to \$70,000,000 in 1959 and from
 \$250,000,000 to \$140,000,000 in
 1960.

Symington, who is a Demo-
 cratic possibility for nomination
 for President, said he realized
 "fully that my statements on
 this vital matter may be labeled
 as politically motivated by those
 who prefer to conceal the facts.
 "I choose to face that risk," he
 added. "It is an insignificant
 risk indeed compared with the
 unwarranted risk which this
 policy of misinformation has
 brought down upon our country."

By the Associated Press.

Chairman Richard B. Russell
 (Dem.), Georgia, of the Senate
 Armed Services Committee told
 reporters yesterday, "I think
 we are woefully behind in the
 missile program."

He spoke after the committee
 had questioned Air Force offi-
 cials in private. In their public

statements, Air Secretary Dug-
 ley C. Sharp and General Thomas
 D. White, Air Force Chief of
 Staff, claimed "truly remarkabil-
 progress" in United States mis-
 sile programs and spoke of prom-
 ising weapons ahead.

General White said his ser-
 vice was particularly happy over
 progress toward an air-launched
 ballistic missile called the St.
 Bolt, when that missile is com-
 bined with nuclear-powered air-
 craft, he said, the United States
 will have "the most mobil-
 ity and striking power ever achieved."

He did not disclose publicly
 when this goal would be
 achieved.

Sharp claimed phenomenal ac-
 curacy for the Atlas, the only
 United States intercontinental
 ballistic missile rated as combat-
 ready. He said the Atlas's ac-
 curacy would be improved.

White challenged contentions
 that only a few Atlases were
 ready, and that only scientists
 and civilian contractor person-
 nel have fired them. He de-
 scribed missiles emplaced at
 Vandenberg Air Force Base in
 California as operational rockets
 which he said "could be
 launched by fully-trained and
 qualified Air Force crews."

Both Sharp and White con-
 ceded Russian missile and other
 weapons advances represent a
 threat—"increasingly pressing,
 diversified . . . and ominous,"
 White termed it.

After the briefing, Russell
 agreed that Strategic Air Com-
 mand bombers now form "the
 greatest striking force on earth."
 But he said he had not been con-
 vinced by Administration lead-
 ers that there was no missile
 gap.

"Russia has the I.C.B.M. in
 production," Russell said. "They
 are really turning them out.
 Ours is just a trickle. It is
 barely emerging from the re-
 search and development stage."