

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

New Soviet Missile Tried, Experts Say

By FRED S. HOFFMAN
Associated Press

The Russians have conducted what some U.S. intelligence experts believe was the first successful flight test of a big and improved new missile with intercontinental range.

Military sources said the new missile is about as big as the giant Soviet SS9 and probably incorporates advances over that weapon. The SS9 already is regarded as a possible threat to knock out U.S. land-based Minutemen missiles in a surprise attack.

The SS9 is Russia's most accurate missile, but U.S. experts said the Soviets have been working to improve both the accuracy and reliability of their long-range weapons.

More definite conclusions about the characteristics of the new Russian missile await

study of the technical data of the Dec. 29 test flight over a 3,900-mile distance from Tyuratam in central Russia to the Kamchatka peninsula.

The missile carries only a single payload, so American experts said it did not involve a test of any multiple warhead technology.

The Russians have developed triple warheads which can be fired in shotgun fashion, but have not yet achieved the ability to guide multiple warheads to separate targets with precision, as the United States can.

The new missile is believed designed for launching from underground silos first discovered under construction nearly two years ago. There are about 90 of these silos, with nearly a third large enough to handle a huge SS9-type weapon

and the remainder apparently built for smaller intercontinental missiles.

When perfected the advanced missile may replace the nearly 290 SS9s, most formidable of the Soviet Union's force of about 1,600 land-based strategic missiles.

U.S. intelligence men calculate that the new missile could be combat-ready in about two more years, assuming the Russians follow the normal test pattern.

The first-stage nuclear arms limitation agreement signed by the United States and Russia last May put the limit on the number of strategic ballistic missile launchers but leaves both countries free to improve their weapons.

Pentagon officials said it appears the new missile, just tested, falls within the boundaries of that agreement.

Chinese Drug Smugglers Tied to 'Dutch Connection'

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Two U.S. congressmen said yesterday that Chinese sailors have established a "Dutch connection" at the ports of Amsterdam and Rotterdam for smuggling most of the heroin peddled to

ny." They said the heroin came from Hong Kong.

"We urgently need the cooperation of the Netherlands to stem the flow of heroin originating in Southeast Asia," Steele told a news conference

of the 195,000 army troops in West Germany as "users and abusers" of narcotics, including heroin, amphetamines and barbituates.

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