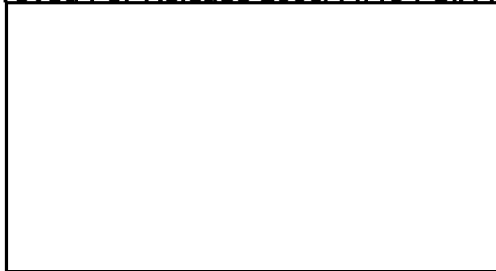


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11 May 1959

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: Briefing Note on Schedule of Estimates on Soviet  
Military Capabilities**

1. You have already been briefed on these proposals by the Board of National Estimates, whose position is set forth in the memorandum dated 6 May. All agencies agree to the desirability of estimating Soviet intentions and programs for producing and deploying missiles in conjunction with other weapon systems suitable for the same general purposes. There is likewise general agreement as to the desirability of beginning a long-range attack estimate immediately, and postponing the air defense paper to early next year.
2. As indicated by reservations on page 5 of the Board's memorandum, however, there is disagreement as to the procedure which should be followed in preparing a long-range attack paper, particularly the role GMAIC should play. At the meeting held last week to discuss the proposals, the Joint Staff representative argued that Soviet requirements, policy, and operational deployment

of missiles were beyond GMAIC's purview, and that GMAIC should therefore make no separate contribution to the paper. The Air Force representative took the position that a separate GMAIC contribution involved unnecessary duplication, since the missile, bomber, and other estimates to be included in the paper would have to be coordinated later by ONE and the representatives. Navy was also concerned about possible duplication.

3. These differences were probably unavoidable because of the varying interpretations given to GMAIC's charter. The Board feels that there is no serious jurisdictional issue involved in this case. It believes that the specialized knowledge of some of the people working in GMAIC can be a valuable contribution to this estimate, and is worth the risk of some duplication and jurisdictional imprecision. Military estimates of this complexity have always involved this in order to ensure utilization of the full resources of the community. The procedure suggested in this case actually simplifies that employed in the last missile estimate when the device of Ad Hoc Committees required separate consideration at three separate echelons.

4. It is recommended that the USIB note the ONE memorandum and draft terms of reference, and approve the recommendations made in paragraphs 5-8 of the memorandum.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

SHERMAN KENT  
Assistant Director  
National Estimates