

Executive Registry  
66-3094/1

**SECRET**

14 July 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Comment on paragraphs 5, 6, and 7 of Hanson Baldwin's remarks (attached)

1. We have no reason to believe that, in making estimates, DIA has ever pressed arguments upon us which arose simply from the Administration's or the Secretary's predilections. On the contrary, we sense that sometimes DIA seeks support in an NIE for judgments which run contrary to the Secretary's opinions. In general we think DIA is admirably objective.

2. A few obvious additional comments need to be made for the record: (a) nobody is or can be perfectly objective in making judgments; (b) DIA naturally approaches estimates with the predilection of military people; (c) DIA has frequently differed from the Air Force, virtually always in such a way as to reduce the numerical dimensions of the Soviet threat -- this comment has special relevance to the sources from which Hanson Baldwin must have got his sense of disquiet.

[Redacted Signature Box]

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ABBOT SMITH  
Acting Director  
National Estimates

**SECRET**

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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