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TAFC1N-R3B TSC# 05-02-60

TS#116673
Copy 1 of 7
28 September 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Guided Missile and Astronautics Intelligence Committee

SUBJECT : Contribution on SA-5 Missile for NIE 11-4-60

As requested in your memorandum of 26 August 1960, the following proposed rewording of paragraph 45 of NIE 11-4-60, Annex A, is submitted for consideration at the GMAIC Meeting scheduled for 6 and 7 October:

45. "We believe that the USSR has an active and high priority program in the field of warning and defense against ballistic missiles, though it does not have now a defense capability against ballistic missiles of any type. The program probably includes the development of many components including detection radars, possible space surveillance systems, tracking radars, guidance systems for an antiballistic missile and its warhead or other kill mechanisms, communications systems, and data processing equipment as well as the missile itself. The Soviets are probably now conducting tests on some of the component parts of an antiballistic missile. We believe that their initial flight tests of antiballistic missiles will probably be against medium or shorter range ballistic missiles, to be followed as soon as practicable by flight tests against an ICBM. Considering such evidence as we have on their effort together with general Soviet capabilities in related technical fields, we continue to estimate that in the 1963-1966 period the USSR could have an antiballistic missile missile system with undetermined effectiveness for use against ICBMs. We believe the Soviets could have an anti-IRBM missile system operational during the early portion of the 1963-1966 time period if they so desired. The USSR is probably also exploring unconventional techniques for active defense against ballistic missiles. We cannot predict the nature or success of such studies."

[redacted]

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CIA Member

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