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Gen. Bull

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Length of NIE 11-6-54

1. At the agency meetings there will undoubtedly be a good deal of sentiment for cutting down the size of NIE 11-6-54, including perhaps junking the appendices. I believe that the paper can be cut considerably but that there are valid arguments for still keeping it a "big" paper even if cut:

a. It is the first real estimate in the GM field. As such it will be a basic document on which future, briefer estimates can be built. Having said all this once, we can then write shorter estimates hereafter.

b. In view of the paucity of firm evidence, it is desirable that we spell out in some detail just how we reached the fairly firm conclusions that we did. Otherwise the paper will lack authority.

c. The paper is not designed primarily for the high level NSC-type audience, but rather for people who are really interested in a fairly detailed estimate. Our two requestors were Asst. Sec. of Defense Quarles and FCDA, both of whom could best be served by a fairly detailed paper.

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2. The following specific suggestions for cutting may be advanced and I would suggest the following approach to them:

a. AF or some other service may propose omitting all Annexes. I believe that this is unsound both for the general reasons given above and the specific reasons given in c-d below.

b. We could propose that Annex A be dropped, thus saving 16 pages right off. It largely duplicates Section II and is summarized in the chart on page 12. I believe everyone will agree to drop it.

c. Annex C (RESTRICTED DATA) should be kept in this form because of security considerations but it could be cut greatly in size to 1 or 2 pages.

d. Annex B (Economic) should, I believe, be retained not merely because O/RR did a good job but because Annex C reflects a new and promising approach to the economic capabilities question, and as such contributes a good deal. It is the best analysis of production capabilities

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and economic impact that we have ever had in a Soviet estimate. As such, it charts a promising road for the future. It now runs only 22 pages, and could be cut down by another 4-6 pages if necessary.

e. O/SI may advance the proposal that the basic estimate should be cut down, by taking out Section II and putting it in as an Annex, and letting the estimate itself be mainly Section IV (on intentions). I do not favor this because it destroys the logic of the paper (i. e., capabilities should be discussed before intentions), but it is a feasible course of action.

HJK

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