

30 April 1969

Concept and Status of the ABM Study

The general conceptual approach of the ABM Study is illustrated schematically in Figure 1. In simple terms, the problem requires definition of intelligence needs on the Soviet ABM (specifying an observable set), description of the available means to fulfill these needs (specifying the capabilities of an ensemble of collectors), and computation of the incremental effectiveness of changes in the collector ensemble.

With respect to definition of intelligence needs, the task ranges from specification of our already extensive knowledge of the current Soviet ABM System to specifications of all the required information about an as yet undeveloped ABM system. It appears certain that this wide range would cover any day-to-day real life situation. Within this range the type and detail of information required for different purposes -- for example, by different consumers -- may produce different results. The initial attempt will be to determine if the study results are sensitive to the differences offered by such a range. If they are, there are two alternatives to be pursued: the first, narrow the range so that it is more realistic, then see if the study results are still sensitive; second, display alternative results for appropriate subranges.

With respect to description of collection systems, the primary need is to specify basic capabilities to make observations as compared to required accuracies and timeliness or periodicity. Basic capabilities are being determined independent of the existence of competing collectors.

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Approved For Release 2002/01/09 : CIA-RDP80B01138A000100070020-5

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A likely schedule, expressed in terms of tasks, might be as follows:

1. Specify the existing data base and relate value to observational accuracy -- 3 weeks.
2. Check out program on computer and investigate precision needed in subset selection -- 4 weeks.
3. Finalize collector capabilities and put in required format -- 2 weeks.
4. Identify guides to observable subsets -- 1 week.
5. Develop relative values for observables in subsets (OSD/SA) -- 5 weeks.
6. Make runs directly relating to desired type of results (must follow at least Step 2) -- 3 weeks.
7. Preparation of final report -- 2 weeks.

The above time estimates are based on the expectation of having available the following interim assistance:

-- From NSA, DIA and CIA - a series of 1/2 day consultations with the persons who filled in the collector capability forms in order to accomplish Step 3.

-- From NSA and State - one competent (and cleared) systems analyst (or Operations Researcher) for 3 weeks from each.

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-- From DIA - one competent substantive intelligence analyst for 3 weeks

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With the above support, and with the quantitative input from OSD/SA assumed available on 30 May, the study could be completed by no later than 15 June. This tight time schedule assumes a concurrent attack on practically every problem. Without the additional support it might still be possible to meet this time schedule, but at an unknown, though considerable, loss in the number of variations and degree of refinement in the results.