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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

SP - 94/77
7 April 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence

SUBJECT: Presidential Priorities

REFERENCE: DIA "Comments on Draft Presidential Priorities Paper,"
dated 4 April 1977

1. I suggest that you add the following entry as the first tick under paragraph II.9 "Soviet strategic forces questions":

--What are the objectives and practical expectations of Soviet leaders for their strategic forces and capabilities relative to those of the US during the next 10 years?

2. I have no problem with the thought behind DIA's suggestion (page 3 of Reference) that paragraph II.9 include a reference to Soviet advanced weapons research. However, I suggest that this entry be made the last tick under paragraph II.9 and be reworded in accordance with Key Intelligence Question 4 for FY-1977:

--What progress are the Soviets making in advanced technologies crucial to the development of weapon systems which could have a significant influence on the USSR's strategic military posture?

[Redacted Signature Box]

Howard Stoertz, Jr.
National Intelligence Officer
for Strategic Programs

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SUBJECT: Presidential Priorities

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7 April 1977

MEMO FOR : D/DCI/NT

SUBJECT : Presidential Priorities

REFERENCE : DIA "Comments on Draft
Presidential Priorities Paper",
dated 4 April 1977

1. I suggest that ^{the following entry} ~~be added~~ as the first title under paragraph II.9 "Soviet strategic forces question": ~~what~~

-- What are the objectives and practical expectations of Soviet leaders for their strategic forces and their capabilities relative to those of the US during the next 10 years?

2. ~~I also suggest that you add a~~
~~behind DIA's suggestion (page 3 of REF)~~
~~the last title under paragraph II.9~~
~~that paragraph II.9 include a reference~~
~~the entry proposed by DIA (page 3 of REF)~~
~~to Soviet~~

~~However,~~ advanced weapons research.

However, I suggest that this entry

be made the last title under

paragraph II.9 and be reworded

in accordance with Key Intelligence
Question #4 for FY 1977:

Cost Tech

What progress are the Soviets making
in advanced technologies crucial
to the development of weapon
systems which could have a
significant influence on the
USSR's strategic military
posture?"

H. S.

NIO/SP

2. We also suggest that you seek the
following entry:

Subj: Presidential Priorities

~~Suggest~~ New 12

~~Only one item was of direct pertinence to CF account (DIA suggestion for new A 9A on p 3 of DIA memo). With the new marching orders and restoration of items previously excluded, suggest combining ~~one~~ one item (SP/CF) to follow existing A 11 as follows:~~

12. 11a - Soviet military developments.

Will there be any technological developments, or changes in force posture which could significantly influence Soviet/Warsaw Pact strategic ~~or general conventional~~ military capabilities? ~~Would such~~ ^{How would}

~~changes in Warsaw Pact influence War-~~

saw Post or NATO attitudes?

-- What are the prospects that the Soviets will acquire an effective defense against bombers, SRAMs and cruise missiles?

Add new tick

10. Soviet civil defense: What is the pace and effectiveness of Soviet civil defense preparations? How do Soviet leaders assess the contribution of their civil defenses to the USSR's strategic posture relative to the US?

11. Soviet space interference: What are the risks of Soviet interference with US space systems?

¹² - Add new 12, 13

¹² 12. Sino-Soviet relations: Will there be an improvement in state-to-state relations on such issues as trade, border negotiations, and exchanges? Be alert for any changes in military posture that could affect the Sino-Soviet balance or indicate warlike intentions on either side. What are the chances of hostilities? Are changing perceptions of the Sino-Soviet-US triangle having any impact on Moscow's or Peking's foreign policy? Are any leadership changes developing in either Communist capital that will significantly affect these relationships?

Add new 15



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OK to the

^{New} 13. Impact of Soviet Economic Problems: In what specific ways are current economic problems in the USSR likely to be reflected in key US political, economic or SALT negotiations with Moscow?

OK