

9-0696

23 January 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Comments on Reported Khrushchev Statement on Series Production of ICBMs.

The Russian text of the Khrushchev statement as broadcast by Moscow Home Service has been received and differs from the Associated Press report. While the Associated Press reported, "The Soviet Union has started the serial production of intercontinental ballistic missiles," the home service broadcast reported, "In the Soviet Union serial production of intercontinental ballistic rockets has been organized." It cannot be determined as yet which of these statements was actually made by Khrushchev in his address.

In the United States, after the development models of a missile have been proven and accepted, the missile is considered to be in "series production" when like missiles are being produced at planned rate^s for delivery to operational units. In Russian usage

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the term "series production" has the same meaning as above and conveys this with more precision. Other phases of production are clearly defined by similarly precise terms.

According to a 1957 Soviet text on aircraft production, there are three stages involved in putting a new item into series production:

1. Preparation for production of an aircraft of new design;
2. Mastery of the processes of manufacturing a new aircraft by the production line;
3. Series production of the new aircraft and mastery of its modification.

Khrushchev's statement of 12 November 1953 that "production of ICBMs has been set up successfully" clearly implied that stage 2 above had been completed. His statement of 27 January 1953, as broadcast by Moscow Home Service, implies further progress; it indicates that all preparations for stage 3 have been completed and perhaps a few ICBMs have been serially produced for delivery to operational units. The Associated Press report, although similar, has somewhat stronger implications.

Current national intelligence estimates state that the USSR will probably have an initial operational capability and start series production "at some time during calendar 1959;" Khrushchev's statement indicates that these developments have already begun.

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Director