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Washington, D. C.
23 October 1957

Mr. Allen W. Dulles, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

This letter will confirm our conversation of 22 October during which we stated to you that we believed the United States is in a period of national emergency.

We spent the day preceding our conversation with you in reviewing and discussing evidence regarding the Soviet guided missile program, particularly those aspects dealing with offensive ballistic missiles. The data proves beyond question that the Russians have an orderly and progressive program which is being prosecuted in an aggressive and intelligent manner. The program does not appear to us to be of a "crash" nature but rather one that has been thoroughly thought out and followed for years. One of the most disturbing features revealed is the high level of Soviet competence in achieving their planned goals. Just two points will illustrate this conclusion:

a. [redacted] EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs
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In this context, it should be noted that both the first firing [redacted] EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs and the orbiting of their satellite were accomplished as scheduled and with practically no delays.

b. The accuracies achieved in their firings [redacted] EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs indicate an extremely high efficiency in guidance components such that no imagination is required to extrapolate these results to usable accuracies in an ICBM.

This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, USC, Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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As mentioned above, the progression in their ballistic missile program [redacted] EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs and earth satellite, illustrates thoroughly EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs soundest technical concept and execution. This program is supported by highly reliable rocket motors [redacted] EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs. This latter motor, reportedly ready for static tests in 1952, is [redacted] EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs probably is an essential element EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs ICBM. Inasmuch as precise guidance and dependable [redacted] EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs the chief factors in an ICBM, we must conclude that the USSR can have some (a dozen) operational missiles by the end of 1958. We must also conclude that significant quantities of these missiles (with atomic warheads) are not large quantities and could be produced fairly rapidly.

Our high concern has resulted from our knowledge of the US program [redacted] EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs our comparison of the US and USSR programs. Although we realize intelligence has no responsibility for making comparisons of this nature, omission would remove basis for concern. US experience in ballistic missiles does not match that of the USSR and in our opinion is lagging by two to three years. We submit that there is no spot remedy that will eliminate this critical difference in capabilities within any short time period. Rather, only by the most determined and concentrated US effort, extending over a period of several years, will we raise our experience level again to a par with the USSR.

Not immediately akin but very closely connected, it is our belief that guided missile intelligence must be more closely interwoven both within itself and with the US research and development program such that intelligence may be able to arrive at firmer conclusions on a greatly accelerated time base. Inasmuch as national policy decisions are being made in Washington, intelligence, to be timely, also needs to be accomplished in Washington. For this reason, we submit that the technical competence of CIA should be expanded without delay and that direct connections between CIA and US missile contractors be effected.

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We note that the guided missile intelligence community has initiated some technical studies which might lead to a refinement in the military characteristics of an ICBM. While refinement of estimates is required, such should not obscure nor delay the basic fact of the near existence of a Soviet operational ICBM.

Your consultant panel believes, as stated before, that the country is in a period of grave national emergency and that it will only be by the most intelligent and coordinated efforts of all concerned over a period of some years before such an emergency can be eliminated. In parallel, we cannot emphasize too much that increased efforts by the intelligence community, both overt and covert, are mandatory to counter this threat.

/s/

Robert R. McMath

/s/

Lawrence A. Hyland

/s/

George B. Kistiakowsky

/s/

Francis H. Clauser

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