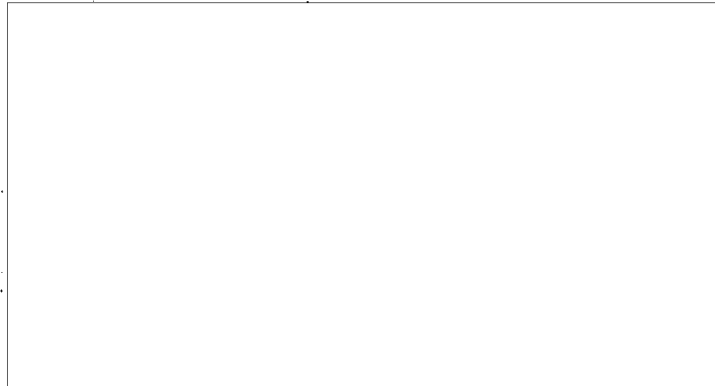


Intelligence Checklist



USSR: *The test program for the Soviets' new SS-X-20 intermediate range ballistic missile is moving along well, and deployment could begin by mid-1976.*

A force of SS-X-20s would improve Soviet capability to deliver nuclear strikes against Western Europe and China, and would diminish the need to add ICBMs to strategic forces targeted against these areas. A two-stage solid-propellant missile, the SS-X-20 can carry a MIRV payload of three warheads to a maximum range of about 2,200 miles.

The SS-X-20 probably will replace all of the current Soviet force of SS-4 medium range and SS-5 intermediate range ballistic missiles, developed and fielded in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

The SS-X-20 will eliminate the most serious difficulties in this existing force. A land-mobile missile, it will be less vulnerable to attack than the SS-4 and SS-5

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