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WASHINGTON. THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

14 AUG 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (INTERNATIONAL SECURITY POLICY) ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS) ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS) DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Releasing Soviet Threat Document (1)

The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency has prepared an important unclassified document on the growing Soviet Military Threat. It is essential that we coordinate release of this document here and abroad to maximize its distribution and its impact.

(2) A calendar of events leading to public release on September 17, 1981 and a list of tasks are attached. I request your full support in this important effort; it will be a major step in bringing home to some vitally important groups the true nature of the Soviet Threat.

**DECLASSIFIED IN FULL** Authority: E0 13526 **Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS** Date: FEB 1 2 2018

Attachments

hments	Office of the Secretary of Defense Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS	
	Date: 12 Feb 2018 Authority: EO 13526 Declassify: X Denv in Full:	
	Declassify in Part: Reason: MDR: <b>17</b> -M- <b>0448</b>	

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# SOVIET MILITARY POWER (BRIEFING)

Page determined to be Unclassified

FEB 1 2 2018

Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5

Date:

TODAY WE ARE FORMALLY ANNOUNCING THE PUBLICATION OF A MAJOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DOCUMENT, <u>Soviet</u> <u>Military Power</u>.

ONE OF THE MOST VITALLY IMPORTANT ISSUES CONFRONTING THE UNITED STATES AND OUR NATO PARTNERS AS WE ADDRESS OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE NEEDS, AND THE COLLECTIVE DEFENSE, IS THE PRECISE NATURE OF THE CHALLENGE WE FACE FROM OUR POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES. THE FOREMOST CHALLENGE IS THAT FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

IN 1981, THE NATO ALLIES HAVE MADE REPEATED REFERENCES TO THE MILITARY BUILDUP OF THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES. TO QUOTE FROM THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE MAY 1981 MEETING OF THE NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS: "THE MORE CONSTRUCTIVE EAST-WEST RELATIONSHIP WHICH THE ALLIES SEEK REQUIRES TANGIBLE SIGNS THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS PREPARED TO ABANDON THE DISTURBING BUILDUP OF ITS MILITARY STRENGTH, TO DESIST FROM RESORTING TO FORCE AND INTIMIDATION AND TO CEASE CREATING OR EXPLOITING SITUATIONS OF CRISIS AND INSTABILITY IN THE THIRD WORLD."

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WHAT PRECISELY IS THIS BUILDUP? WHAT INCREASED THREAT DOES IT POSE REQUIRING GREATER VIGILANCE AND STRENGTHENED DEFENSES? TO ASSIST IN ADDRESSING THESE QUESTIONS, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS PUBLISHED SOVIET MILITARY POWER.

Soviet Military Power addresses all elements of the Soviet Armed Forces - the Strategic Rocket Forces, the Ground Forces of the Army, the Air Forces, the Navy and the Air Defense Forces. The document examines the composition, organization and doctrine of these forces, their growth and their continuing acquisition of new, increasingly capable conventional and nuclear weapons. The document examines the increasing projection of Soviet military power beyond the boundaries of the Soviet Union.

WHILE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THIS INFORMATION HAVE BEEN PRESENTED BEFORE IN SUCH REPORTS AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEF OF STAFF'S ANNUAL STATEMENT ON THE U.S. MILITARY POSTURE, AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE'S ANNUAL REPORT, <u>Soviet Military Power</u> contains more factual INFORMATION ON THE USSR'S ARMED FORCES THAN EVER AVAILABLE BEFORE UNDER ONE COVER FOR UNCLASSIFIED PUBLICATION.

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I would point out that the document focuses primarily on the USSR. It is not a comparative document; it is not a relative assessment of the strategic or conventional balance. In addressing important defense decisions too often we find ourselves weighing this aspect of the strategic/conventional balance, or that aspect of the balance, without taking time to stand back and examine the totality of the challenge which confronts us. <u>Soviet Military Power</u> fills a gap in the information which has been available until now on the total dimensions of the Soviet Armed Forces. It is a document rich in data, which hopefully will contribute to the bestinformed decisions and deliberations possible on U.S. and NATO defense requirements.

MY RECOMMENDATION IS THAT YOU TAKE THE TIME TO GO THROUGH THE DOCUMENT. IT IS 99 PAGES IN LENGTH. I THINK YOU WILL FIND IT EXTREMELY INFORMATIVE. LET ME TAKE A MOMENT TO TOUCH ON SOME OF THE KEY POINTS.

THE PREFACE TO <u>SOVIET MILITARY POWER</u> HIGHLIGHTS MAJOR SOVIET MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS. (GRAPHIC OF SOVIET MILITARY FORCES, PP 68-6

-- SOVIET ARMED FORCES TODAY NUMBER MORE THAN 4.8 MILLION MEN.

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-- SOVIET GROUND FORCES HAVE GROWN TO MORE THAN 180 DIVISIONS, AND HAVE ACHIEVED THE CAPACITY FOR EXTENDED INTENSIVE COMBAT IN THE CENTRAL REGION OF EUROPE.

-- THE SOVIETS MAINTAIN A HIGH RATE OF PRODUCTION OF NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS - TANKS, MISSILES, SHIPS, ARTILLERY, ROCKETS AND AIRCRAFT.

-- To cite one example, in 1980, the (Graphic of Nizhniy Tagil Railroad Car and Tank Plant p. 11) produced 2,500 T-72 Main Battle Tanks. When you superimpose the floorspace of this plant on a map of Washington D.C. it covers the entire Mall area running from the U.S. Capitol Building to the Lincoln Memorial. This is one of 135 major military industry plants in the USSR today. The growth of the Soviet Armed Forces is made possible by the USSR's military production base which continues to grow at the expense of all other components of the Soviet economy.

-- THE DOCUMENT REVIEWS THE MANY ASPECTS OF ARMED FORCES AND WEAPONS PRODUCTION GROWTH IN DETAIL, INCLUDING SPECIFIC TABLES IN CHAPTER II. TO CITE A FEW MORE EXAMPLES, IN THE LAST DECADE, FIVE DIFFERENT SOVIET SHIPYARDS HAVE PRODUCED SEVEN CLASSES OF ATTACK

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AND BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINES INCLUDING THE 25,000-TON TYPHOON STRATEGIC BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINE, LAUNCHED IN 1980 AND DEPICTED, FOR THE FIRST TIME, ON PAGES 8 AND 9.

-- CURRENTLY, THE HOTEL, YANKEE AND DELTA-CLASS BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINES CARRY some 950 missiles with some 2,000 nuclear warhead reentry vehicles. The TYPHOON is twice the size of the Soviets' most modern DELTA-class.

-- To give another indicator of the (Graphic of frontal aviation great size of the Soviet military production effort, in each of the past five years, the Soviets have built more than 1,000 fighter and fighter/bomber aircraft. Quoting from the publication (p. 99) "Over the past decade the West's air superiority over Europe has been eroded by the capable aircraft being deployed in the Soviet Air Defense Forces and Frontal Aviation ... During the 1980s, the Soviets are expected to give high priority to the development of new fighter aircraft for both the ground attack and the air superiority missions,"

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CHART,

-- CHAPTER IV ADDRESSES AN ISSUE OF CRUCIAL CONCERN: THE GROWTH OF SOVIET THEATER FORCES (G AND THE GROWING THEATER NUCLEAR THREAT TO THE PP. Western European nations of the NATO alliance. Rai As of July 1981, some 250 SS-20 Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile Launchers and Missile sets had been deployed. Of these, 175 with 525 warheads are deployed opposite the NATO countries. The SS-20 Launchers are mobile, increasing their survivability. Each missile is fitted with three, very accurate and independently targetable -- MIRVed -- warheads, and each SS-20 unit is equipped with refire Missiles.

-- THE SOVIETS CONTINUE TO BUILD SOME 30 NEW SUPERSONIC BACKFIRE BOMBERS EACH YEAR. THE BACKFIRE IS A VERSATILE, MULTIPURPOSE AIRCRAFT WITH THEATER NUCLEAR STRIKE, CONVENTIONAL ATTACK, ANTI-SHIP AND RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS -- AS WELL AS AN INTERCONTINENTAL CAPABILITY.

-- As you know, the United States is working intensively with our Allies on the vital issue of Long Range Theater Nuclear Forces modernization and deployment. As a reference document, <u>Soviet Military Power</u>, provides a very useful review of the growing challenge we and our Allies face, which we hope will be helpful as we

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WORK WITH OUR PARTNERS IN THE ALLIANCE ON FORCE MODERNIZATION AND DEPLOYMENT,

-- CHAPTER V, SOVIET STRATEGIC FORCES, REVIEWS THE STEADILY GROWING STRENGTH AND CAPABILITIES OF THE USSR STRATEGIC ROCKET FORCE. SINCE THE MID-1970S THE SOVIET UNION HAS COMPLETELY UPGRADED ITS STRATEGIC INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE FORCE WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SS-17, SS-18 AND SS-19 ICBMs EQUIPPED WITH MIRVED WARHEADS -- MIRVED ICBMs WITH IMPROVED RELIABILITY, RANGE, PAYLOAD ACCURACY AND SURVIVABILITY.

-- THE SOVIET INTERCONTINENTAL STRATEGIC ARSENAL INCLUDES 7,000 NUCLEAR WARHEADS, WITH 1,398 ICBM LAUNCHERS, 950 SLBM LAUNCHERS AND 156 LONG-RANGE BOMBERS. THIS LATTER FIGURE DOES NOT INCLUDE THE SOME 150 NUCLEAR-CAPABLE BACKFIRE BOMBERS.

-- THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE SOVIET NAVY (GRAF MAJOR FROM A COASTAL DEFENSE FORCE INTO AN OCEAN-GOING SHIPS FORCE INCREASINGLY CAPABLE OF PROJECTING TACTICAL, THEATER AND STRATEGIC NAVAL POWER IN WATERS DISTANT FROM THE USSR IS COVERED IN CHAPTER IV. THE SOVIET NAVY EMERGING FROM LARGE, MODERN SHIPYARDS INCLUDES THE KIEV-CLASS GUIDED MISSILE

(GRAPHIC OF MAJOR SURFACE SHIPS TABLE P, 39)

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AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, THE FIRST SOVIET SHIPS TO CARRY FIXED-WING VSTOL JET AIRCRAFT, AND THE 23,000-TON, NUCLEAR-POWERED GUIDED MISSILE CRUISER KIROV -- ONLY TWO OF THE EIGHT CLASSES OF MAJOR SURFACE WARSHIPS PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE USSR.

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-- THE SOVIET NAVY IS ONE OF THE KEY ELEMENTS IN THE GLOBAL POWER PROJECTION OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES. TODAY, THE SOVIETS HAVE MORE THAN 85,000 MEN FIGHTING IN AFGHANISTAN. SOVIET NAVAL FORCES ARE DEPLOYED IN THE MAJOR OCEANS OF THE WORLD. THE USSR IS GAINING INCREASED ACCESS TO MILITARY FACILITIES AND IS SUPPORTING PROXY CONFLICTS IN AFRICA, SOUTHWEST ASIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

-- THE SOVIET GLOBAL POWER PROJECTION MAP (GR SOV ON PAGES 84 AND 85 OF THE DOCUMENT SUMMARIZES POW PP. THE USSR'S CURRENT EXPANSIONIST EFFORTS ABROAD TARGETED AT SPREADING AND SOLIDIFYING SOVIET POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY INFLUENCE AROUND THE WORLD. CHAPTER VII PRESENTS A DETAILED REVIEW OF THE SOVIET INSTRUMENTS OF EXPANSION AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES TO THE PROJECTION OF POWER BEYOND SOVIET BOUNDARIES.

(GRAPHIC OF SOVIET GLOBAL POWER PROJECTIC PP. 84-85)

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-- THE SOVIET RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND THE USSR'S CONTINUING INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE ADVANCED WESTERN TECHNOLOGY BOTH SUPPORT THE STEADY, LARGE-SCALE MODERNIZATION AND GROWTH OF THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES; AN ENTIRE CHAPTER OF THE DOCUMENT IS DEVOTED TO THIS SUBJECT.

-- Chapter VIII, the concluding chapter entitled 'The Challenge' reviews major strides the USSR has taken in the past decade, stating in the most objective language possible that: "The Soviets begin the 1980s with strategic nuclear, theater nuclear and conventional armed forces and supporting elements that in both absolute and relative terms are substantially more capable than they were at the beginning of the 1970s."

-- THERE IS NOTHING HYPOTHETICAL ABOUT (FIRST GRAPHIC THE SOVIET MILITARY. WE ARE WITNESSING THE FORCES, PP. 63-CONTINUING GROWTH OF SOVIET MILITARY POWER AT A PACE THAT SHOWS NO SIGNS OF SLACKENING IN THE FUTURE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THIS GROWTH -- A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES, THEIR DOCTRINE, THEIR CAPABILITIES, THEIR STRENGTHS AND THEIR WEAKNESSES IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SHAPING AND MAINTENANCE OF EFFECTIVE U.S. AND ALLIED ARMED FORCES. Page determined to be Unclassified Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5 Ects: FEB 1 2 2018

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-- <u>Soviet Military Power</u> is a document of fact. It is important reading for all who are concerned with the present and future security of the United States and the security of America's Allies.

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#### SOVIET MILITARY POWER

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(General Statement for Use by Ministries of Defense, Member Nations, North Atlantic Alliance)

One of the most vitally important issues confronting this nation and our NATO partners as we address our national defense needs and the collective defense is the precise nature of the challenge we face from our potential adversaries. The foremost challenge is that from the Soviet Union.

In 1981, the NATO Allies have made repeated reference to the military buildup of the Soviet Armed Forces. To quote from the Communique of the May 1981 meeting of the NATO Foreign Ministers: "The more constructive East-West relationship which the Allies seek requires tangible signs that the Soviet Union is prepared to abandon the disturbing buildup of its military strength, to desist from resorting to force and intimidation and to cease creating or exploiting situations of crisis and instability in the Third World."

What precisely is this buildup? What increased threat does it pose requiring greater vigilance and strengthened defenses? To assist in addressing these questions, the United States, in consultation with the Allies, has published <u>Soviet</u> <u>Military Power</u>.

Soviet Military Power addresses all elements of the Soviet Armed Forces - the Strategic Rocket Forces, the Ground Forces of the Army, the Air Forces, the Navy and the Air Defense Forces. The document examines the composition, organization and doctrine of these forces, their growth and their continuing acquisition of new, increasingly capable conventional and nuclear weapons. The document also examines the increasing projection of Soviet military power beyond the boundaries of the Soviet Union.

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Soviet Military Power has been published to provide as full, detailed and factual a statement of the USSR's military capabilities as possible. As the U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger states in his Preface to the document: "A clear understanding of Soviet Armed Forces, their doctrine, their capabilities, their strengths and their weaknesses is essential to the shaping and maintenance of effective U.S. and Allied Armed Forces.

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"The greatest defense forces in the world are those of free people in free nations well informed as to the challenge they face, firmly united in their resolve to provide fully for the common defense, thereby deterring aggression and safeguarding the security of the world's democracies."

## NOTE ON ILLUSTRATIONS IN THIS BINDER:

The document <u>Soviet Military Power</u> is embargoed in its entirety until 11:30 a.m. EDT, 3:30 p.m. GMT, September 17, 1981. Subject to that embargo, the illustrations from <u>Soviet</u> <u>Military Power</u> contained in the following pages are provided for open publication.

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#### Tasking

## Defense Intelligence Agency

- Monitor initial publication run of 40,000 copies, ensuring a minimum 10,000 available to DoD (due August 31.)

- Prepare 25 sets of a publicity/information kit that will support unclassified brief by Allied MODs, to include slides, transparencies, etc (due August 31.)

- Prepare classified backgrounder for legislative leaders, publishers, opinion leaders (due September 14, 15, 16.)

- Prepare unclassified briefing on the document (due September 14.)

### Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISP)

- Prepare a letter to MODs of major allies that will explain documents and publicity information and a letter of transmittal to Defense Attaches (due August 31.)

- After public release, coordinate any use of the document in interagency campaign to influence public opinion in Europe.

- Deliver documents and brief DAOs re handling of release in Paris (September 4.) Prepare and conduct background briefings of key European leaders subsequent to delivery of document.

- Prepare, coordinate message to US Embassies explaining release (due August 25.)

- Prepare a letter to MODs of other allies and friendly nations that will explain and transmit a few copies of the document.

## Assistant Secretary of Defense (PA)

- Coordinate lists of invitees to briefings for publishers and opinion leaders with SecDef and draft invitations for SecDef signature (due August 31.)

- Coordinate briefings on September 15 and 16. Submit detailed format (due September 2.)

- Coordinate SecDef Press Conference on September 17. Draft SecDef statement for press conference.

## Assistant Secretary of Defense (LA)

- Coordinate list of Congressional leaders for invitation to September 14 briefing and prepare invitations (due. September 8.)

- Arrange format, location, time of briefing on Capital Hill on September 14 (due September 8.)

- Arrange for unclassified briefings on document after its release as requested by members of Congress. (September 18 and after)

### The Special Assistant

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- Coordinate the efforts of the various offices and agencies. Point of contact: CDR Mike Hughes, 695-0028.

- Include reference to the document in any public appearances scheduled near the public release date.

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# Tentative Calendar for Document Release

August 25	-	Send message to US Embassies of major allies informing them of release procedures and objectives
August 31	-	Document printed
8	-	Publicity kits prepared
September 4	-	ASD(ISP) have meeting of NATO DAOs in Paris to brief on document, pro- vide materials for MODs, conduct/ coordinate selected background briefings of European leaders
	-	Mail letters of invitation to publishers, opinion leaders
	-	Mail letter with 5 copies of document to other allied countries
September 5	-	DAOs deliver document to MODs of major allies
September 8	-	Invite legislative leadership to September 14 briefing
September 14 (Afternoon)	-	Brief legislative leadership on Capital Hill
	-	Defense Attaches deliver documents to MODs (embargoed until PM 17 Sept)
	-	Provide background briefing to Perm Reps
September 15 (Afternoon)	-	Brief key publishers - See attached format
September 16 (Afternoon)	-	Brief key opinion leaders - See attached format
September 17	-	AM (local) - Public release in Europe as desired by MODs
	-	11:30 AM: SecDef Press Conference in Pentagon. Public release
September 18	-	Public release in Australia, NZ, Japan
	-	Briefings available to Congress
October 21-22	-	NPG in Scotland
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## Briefing Format for 14-16 September

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1500-1545	•	Briefing on Document (John Hughes)
1600-1645 	•	Tour of National Intelligence Command Post
1700-1745		Tour, Brief of NMCC
1800-1830		Conversation with SecDef
1830-2030		Cocktail Buffet

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Mohawk River

(2) Your proposed publicity kit for distribution with the <u>Soviet Military Power</u> Documents has been reviewed. Secretary Weinberger agrees with the general concept of a kit that includes:

- a general statement;
- 8x10 photos of all pictures and charts;
  - 35mm slides of all pictures and charts; and,
- a briefing, including graphics.

(2) Please proceed with production of the publicity kits, with the exception of reproducing the written portion of the briefing, and the general statement. Final wording is being coordinated with Public Affairs and Policy and will be forwarded by COB September 2.

Rixse the Special Assistant

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