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DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: MAR 23 2016

~~SECRET NOFORN WNIINTEL~~

QUESTION: How many ICBM silos can the Soviets destroy within one year following START procedures?

ANSWER: ~~(S/NF/WN)~~ The limiting factors in silo destruction for liquid-fueled systems are the unloading of the silo which includes the removal of the warhead, propellant, and airframe; potential limits on skilled personnel and equipment for explosives handling and silo excavation; and limits on the storage and logistic infrastructure. Observation of SS-11 deactivation at Olovyannaya since early 1991 reveals that the Soviets have the capability to unload 10 silos per month. With two sets of emplacement equipment, this division of 90 silos has not only been unloaded, but 40 silos have been destroyed and most, if not all, airframes shipped from the Rail Transfer Point. Given the Olovyannaya precedent, even the largest division at Tatishchevo (120 silos) could potentially be unloaded in one year, however, only about half of those silos probably could be destroyed in the same period of time. It is uncertain if this rate of missile unloading and silo destruction could be performed by several missile divisions simultaneously.

~~(S/NF/WN)~~ The limiting factors in silo destruction for solid-fueled ICBMs are, with the exception of missile unloading procedures, the same as those for liquid propellant systems. The Soviets currently have two solid-fueled systems, the SS-13 and the SS-24 Mod 2. The only observed removal and destruction of a solid-propellant ICBM was one launch group of 10 SS-13s at Yoshkar Ola in 3 months. This time frame included site preparation, ICBM removal, and silo destruction. Using this rate, the 40 remaining SS-13 ICBMs could be unloaded and their silos destroyed within one year. DIA assesses that the 46 SS-24 Mod 2 silos at Pervomaysk also could be unloaded and destroyed in one year.

QUESTION: How many MIRVed ICBM silos and SS-24 Rail-mobile launchers can the Soviets destroy within one year following START procedures?

ANSWER: ~~(S/NF)~~ There is no difference between silos which launch MIRVed and non-MIRVed ICBMs that would effect silo destruction. Based on the precedent established by the destruction of SS-20 TELs under the INF treaty and the procedures for destroying rail-mobile launchers as outlined in the START treaty, the destruction of the 36 deployed SS-24 rail-mobile launchers probably could be accomplished in less than a year.

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Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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