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EO 13526 1.4(c) < 25Yrs

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THE BASIS OF SECTION 1.4(c), EO 13526



Defense Special Assessment

NGA
1.4(c)

OSD 3.3(b)(1)

8 November 1991

USSR: Soviet Nuclear Weapons Outside the Russian Republic (U)

Major Points

(TS//NF) Up to [redacted] nuclear weapons could still be located in the non-Russian republics and Baltic States. Approximately [redacted] of these weapons are on strategic missile launchers and the remainder are maintained in [redacted]

[redacted] it is possible that some nuclear weapons have been relocated. Given the rising concerns over the sharing of control of nuclear weapons between the center, Russia, and the non-Russian republics, [redacted] removal of the weapons to Russia would be the central government's most desirable option.

Discussion

(TS//NF) Up to [redacted] nuclear weapons, representing [redacted] of the Soviet nuclear weapons stockpile, could still be located in the non-Russian republics and Baltic States. Approximately [redacted] of these weapons are on strategic missile launchers and the remainder are maintained in [redacted]



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Authority: EO 13526
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Date: APR 01 2016

#145
13-M-3544
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~~(S//WN/NP)~~ Since the attempted coup in August, contradictory statements have been made by the central and republic governments regarding the disposition of nuclear weapons outside the Russian Republic. Soviet Minister of Defense Shaposhnikov has said that all tactical nuclear weapons would be removed from Ukraine to Russia within 9 months to a year as part of President Gorbachev's response to the Bush nuclear reduction initiative. General Major P. Palin, First Deputy Chief of Staff of the Carpathian MD, on the other hand, has denied that any withdrawals have occurred and said that no such withdrawals would be possible without the consent and assistance of Ukrainian Republic officials. The Ukrainian Defense Minister, Col Gen Morozov, moreover, recently stated that removal of weapons currently deployed in Ukraine would not be permitted prior to their destruction. Kazakhstan has also indicated a desire to retain nuclear weapons on republic territory, at least until their value as a deterrent is diminished.

Outlook

~~(S//WN/NP)~~ Given the potential role of nuclear weapons as a political football in a three-way struggle between the central government, Russia, and the non-Russian republics, [redacted] removal of the weapons to Russia would be the most desirable option for the central government. Under the current circumstances we would not expect the Soviets to acknowledge that withdrawal was under way. In addition to political considerations there is the increased vulnerability to unauthorized seizure or accident during movement. In a logistics transfer the most effective security measure is

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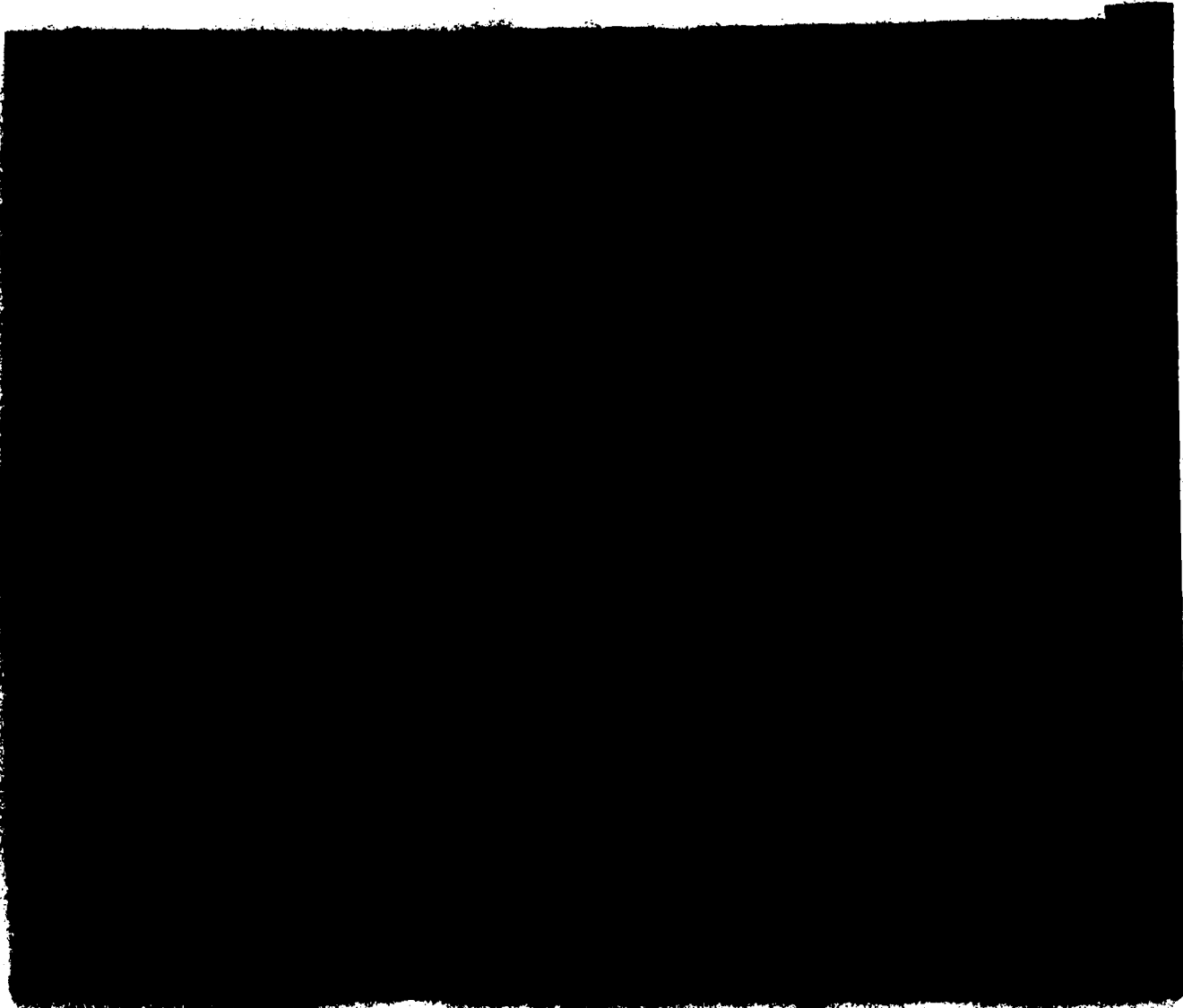
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5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(3); 10 U.S.C. § 4924
NGA

5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(3); 10 U.S.C. § 4924
OSD



strict compartmentation of information to conceal the operation from everyone outside of the operation, including the involved republics and foreign intelligence. If the central government can withdraw nuclear weapons to the Russian Republic at a gradual pace over an extended period of time, employing standard operational security measures.

If the government is forced to make a rapid withdrawal because of a deteriorating political situation.

Prepared by:

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

Date: 2 APR 2016 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. § 552

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Reason: 3.3(b)(2), 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(3); 10 U.S.C. 4924

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Date: APR 01 2016