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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

3 SEP 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD X. LARKIN, USA
ACTING DIRECTOR
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Soviet Military Power Document

(C) I have attached a copy of the revised Chapter I which Secretary Weinberger approved last evening. As you can see, the revised Chapter has been forwarded to ICA, NSC staff, State and CIA. I do not anticipate any significant comments given the noncontroversial nature of the options selected.

(C) I discussed your proposal for modification of Chapter I, i.e., moving forward the chart, Soviet Military Forces, now on pages 68-69, with Denis Clift this morning. Those proposals for revision of the document are approved. Because they do not involve substantive changes, they do not require further coordination.


J. H. Rixse
The Special Assistant

Attachment

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: MAY 25 2018

330-84-0104, lx 30, USSR 320.2 (1 pg - 23 pg)

~~Classified by The Special Assistant~~
~~on September 1, 1987~~

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18-M-0447

USSR 320.2

3 SEP 1981

Soviet Military Power

This document, which is a distillation of briefings provided to the NATO Ministers of Defense, describes the totality of the Soviet military buildup in some detail. Free people can better determine the challenges they face and the decisions required if armed with adequate factual knowledge of the threat. For this reason, the Secretary of Defense, based on the recommendation of his NATO colleagues, has had this document prepared and published.

In the following chapters, Soviet Military Power presents a factual statement of the Soviet Armed Forces, a review intended to be as informative as possible on an issue of the utmost importance to the United States and its Allies.

The chart Soviet Military Forces, on pages six and seven of Chapter I, notionally depicts the size, composition and deployment of the USSR's Strategic Nuclear Forces, Ground Forces, Air Forces, Air Defense Forces and Naval Forces.

Chapter II, Military Resource Allocation, examines the Soviet and non-Soviet Warsaw Pact military industrial base, the world's largest in facilities and physical size, that supports their military forces.

Chapter III, Organization of Soviet Armed Forces, describes the USSR's strategic command structure, command and control, logistic support and combat doctrine.

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In Chapter IV, a detailed review is offered of those Soviet Armed Forces designated for theater operations, nuclear and conventional land, sea and air forces -- forces geared to fast-paced offensive operations, forces arrayed against the nations of Western Europe.

Chapter V describes the modernization and increasing capabilities of the Soviet Strategic Forces, including the SS-17, SS-18 and SS-19 missiles of the ICBM forces, and the continuing modernization of the submarine launched ballistic missile forces.

Chapter VI reports on the Research and Development effort behind the USSR's drive for modern military technology.

Chapter VII reviews the application of Soviet military power today, and Chapter VIII summarizes the challenge posed by the Soviet Armed Forces.

Office of the Secretary of Defense
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 Date: 25 MAY 2018 Authority: EO 13526
 Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
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 MDR: 18 -M- 0447

Page determined to be Unclassified
 Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS
 IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5
 Date: MAY 25 2018