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DRAFT

10 December 1948

In the previous report, dated 1 July 1948, it was estimated that mid-1950 is the earliest possible date for the Soviets to complete their first atomic bomb, and that mid-1953 is the most probable date for completion. It was also stated that by 1955 the Soviets could have a stockpile of 50 atomic bombs in case of the mid-1950 initial date and 20 in case of the mid-1953 initial date.

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By [Signature]  
the U. S. Energy Research  
and Development Administration  
DATE 12-6-76

- These conclusions were based on the following factors:
- (1) The Soviets did not start development of an atomic bomb project until late 1945.
  - (2) Fragmentary information indicating that they are attempting a plutonium bomb.
  - (3) Sufficient uranium was available for the operation of one production pile.

The mid-1950 date is based on U. S., British, and Canadian experience in the field of atomic energy. The probable date of mid-1953 was arrived at by comparing Soviet and Western industrial performance in other fields of similar size and complexity. The estimates of bomb stockpile depend upon estimates of the accumulation and current production of uranium.

During the past year information has been received which furnishes a picture of the organization of the Soviet atomic energy program and certain localities involved. However, the available information, as

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well as the uncertainties inherent in industrial development make it impossible to state with greater accuracy the dates cited above.

Evidence has been received indicating that the quantity of uranium available to the Soviets may be considerably higher than that previously estimated. If this proves to be the case, the atomic bomb stockpile estimate must be increased, but it is premature to revise the figures.

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