

DECLASSIFIED
Authority MD 981571
By MD NARA Date 19/10/98



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington, D.C. 20520

V- Mr. Cuyler
GC
file SAH

November 30, 1972

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MEMORANDUM TO: PM - Mr. Spiers
- Mr. Pickering
- Mr. Garthoff
PM/DCA - Mr. Martin
INR - Mr. Perez
- Mr. Weiss
S/PC - Mr. Weiss

FROM: PM/ISP - Leon Sloss

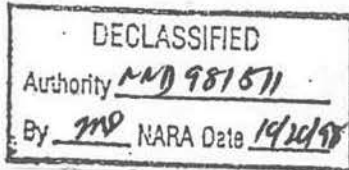
SUBJECT: Soviet Civil Defense and
US "Assured Destruction"

In assessing various SALT positions we almost never take account of Soviet civil defense. I realize that there is a view that Soviet CD is ineffective and inconsequential. However, if that view is not correct (and I believe it is at least exaggerated) then we are overlooking an important factor.

When "assured destruction" is defined in terms of inflicting casualties on the USSR civil population, Soviet civil defense can make a lot of difference. The following numbers for a 1981 second strike force having 648 on-line SLBMs including more than 250 Trident missiles, with a total 1 MT equivalent of 3220 delivered on urban targets are illustrative: 1/

US surviving force (1 MT equivalents)	3220*
No. of Soviet cities attacked (\cong 60,000 population)	400
Casualties (millions)	
No evacuation	106.6
No evacuation, in shelters	83.1
Evacuation	6.0

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2.

* Note that 3220 1 MTE means something on the order of 10,000 warheads.

On the other hand, if "Assured Destruction" is measured in terms of industrial damage it is almost wholly insensitive to Civil Defense. In all cases damage to industry is about 70%, apparently referring to the industry in or about the targeted cities.

Much work needs to be done to evaluate SAL proposed force packages and to review what we mean by "assured destruction"-- how much destruction of what and how "assured"?

cc: U - Mr. Custer

CLASSIFIED BY W. T. Lee
 SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
 SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
 AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
 YEAR INTERVALS AND DECLASSIFIED ON DEC. 31, 1980.

1/ From SRI SSC-TN-8974-65, Evaluation of US Capabilities
 Against Soviet Civil Defense

PM/ISP:WTL^{WT}Lee/jan:30Nov72

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