



# *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 26 August 1968



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4. Soviet Union

An SS-9 ICBM launched from Tyuratam last Friday may have had four separate re-entry vehicles. [redacted]

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[redacted]

We expect to have more data on this event in a few days.

5. France

The French detonated their first thermonuclear device on 24 August at the Pacific test site and probably are now capable of developing thermonuclear warheads for their ballistic missile systems. The device had a yield of about 2.3 megatons.

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[redacted]

[redacted] a second thermonuclear explosion may be planned for mid-to-late September. The tests are extremely expensive, however, and another may not be necessary in view of the success the French have already had.

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This test series, begun on 7 July, has included the explosion of three nuclear devices ranging in yield from 150 to 530 kilotons. These were probably the prototype submarine-launched ballistic missile warhead.

6. Australia

In the Cabinet's forthcoming review of Australian defense policy, Defense Minister Fairhall will come down hard against Gorton's "fortress Australia" concept. Fairhall wants to keep at least air and naval units in the Malaysian and Singapore areas as long as there is trouble on the Asian mainland. Embassy Canberra believes that the Cabinet still works largely by consensus, and that Gorton's defense views may yet be brought closer to US interests.

[redacted]

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