

SPECIAL ARTICLE

SOVIET GUIDED MISSILES PRODUCTION PROGRAM*

There has been considerable evidence in recent months that the Soviet Union, in addition to its continuing research, is now initiating a guided missile production program. The program is probably based on improved versions of guided missiles which German scientists could not perfect for production because of other demands of World War II, but on which extensive documentation and test data existed.

Although the Russians did not have a guided missiles research program at the end of World War II, they recognized the potential of such weapons, and began as early as 1945 to take over the German program as their own. Key German scientists, technicians, and test equipment were exploited for the purpose of reconstituting the German projects and reviving the research work. This effort was first centered in the East Zone of Germany, and in 1947-48 was moved to the USSR.

By 1948, the Soviet Union, from the standpoints of theory, development, test and prototype production, had reached a stage of general knowledgeability equal to that of the Germans at the end of World War II. At this point, known German operational designs could have been "frozen" and placed in production.

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Developmental work in the surface-to-surface field was apparently centered on the ballistic V-2 type rocket and the winged V-1 type missile powered by either one or two pulse jet engines.

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*Prepared by O/SI.

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The Russian guided missile program appears to have been generally frozen in design in the interests of early production, as was done in the case of the MIG-15. However, such designs are not so effective as contemplated US equivalents.

The Russians, like any modern military power, have a requirement

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for guided missiles.

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[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] In light of the known missile work that the USSR has undertaken and the evidence, although fragmentary, of the progress that has been made, it would be hazardous to assume that the Soviet Union is not now engaged in a guided missiles production program.

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