



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

I have been over your memorandum of December 4th which you sent me in regard to the briefing for the National Security Council session. In this memorandum you bring up the question of the ranges for Soviet missiles that have been tested. I have reviewed the available data on this subject this morning, and Mr. Horner was present during the review.

Based on the information obtained from the radar installed in Turkey, the average range indicated for the last 22 sightings is 610 nautical miles. These sightings all occurred this year. There is some uncertainty in this range due to the fact that the launching point is not exactly known. The most probable range is somewhere between 600 and 700 nautical miles. For your information, I am tabulating the best values for these last sightings.

<u>Sighting No.</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Sighting No.</u>	<u>Range</u>
14	540	25	570
15	620	26	620
16	550	27	600
17	640	28	560
18	660	29	700
19	640	30	650
20	740	31	590
21	590	32	500
22	480	33	555
23	720	34	595
24	610	36	600

At our discussion this morning, information for the first 13 sightings was not available. It was pointed out, however, that where reliable data was available, there is no significant difference from the ranges tabulated above. The Soviets have made a number of tests at shorter ranges. It was also brought out in the discussion that there were two sightings that gave an estimated range substantially in excess of those listed. This was during the early stages of the radar operation and it is felt that the information is of poor quality and is not substantiated by subsequent data. Sighting #35, which is not included in the above tabulation, was a shorter range missile.

E. V. Murphree
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Special Assistant for
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cc: Mr. Robertson

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