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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

18 MAR 1967

[Redacted]

Copy No. 1

[Redacted]

EO 12958 6.2(c)

The Honorable Walt W. Rostow
Special Assistant to the President
The White House

Dear Walt:

In SNIE 11-10-67 we used, as usual, some verbal expressions to describe our estimated capability to detect land mobile ICEM's, IREM's, and MREM's, and new missile-launching submarines in the USSR. You asked that we give you a translation into number.

First, with regard to Land Mobile ICEM's, IREM's, and MREM's:

We can quote no discrete odds for detection in the early stages of deployment. Our word "possible" in this context simply means that we are not certain of being able to detect nor do we feel it is impossible that we will detect. Your mathematical friends define this use of "possible" as "non-zero probability."

As to extensive deployment of these weapons systems we feel our chances of detecting are greater than even and less than overwhelming -- say in the general bracket 65% to 85%.

Second, with regard to Missile-launching Submarines:

As to detecting units of an entirely new class before IOC, we have put the odds in the 65% to 85% bracket.

[Redacted]

SANITIZED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5
NLJ 93-511
By isl, NARA, Date 12-21-05

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[Redacted]

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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[Redacted]

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As to detecting new units of an existing class before delivery to the fleet, we put the odds about even; 50-50.

The enclosed article which Sherman wrote some time back may further enlighten.

Sincerely,

Rich

Richard Helms
Director

Enclosure

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