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# INTELLIGENCE REPORT

OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
NAVY DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Air Intelligence Report No. 100-10/4-79

AIR DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES

Air Intelligence Division Study No. 10/4  
2 October 1946

Assistant Chief of Air Staff - 2 and Office of Naval Intelligence

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Assistant Chief of Air Staff - 2  
Hq. Army Air Forces

Office of Naval Intelligence  
Navy Department

Washington, D. C.

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AIR DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES

THE PROBLEM

1. TO FURNISH the following information concerning the air defense of the continental United States:

- a. Strategic target areas in the United States
- b. Capabilities of possible enemies to make attacks against the United States by means of long range bombardment aircraft, carrier or submarine based aircraft, guided missiles, or by airborne invasion.

DISCUSSION

2. INFORMATION CONCERNING the strategic target areas in the United States is contained in Hq. AAF Air Intelligence Report No. 100-10-79,82, "An Analysis of Strategic Objectives in the United States and Canada". This analysis, a copy of which has been furnished Assistant Chief of Air Staff - 5, is considered applicable to air defense planning for at least the next fifteen month period.

3. AT THIS TIME the U.S.S.R. is the only nation which can be considered as having capabilities and possible intentions of attacking the continental United States.

4. BASIC INFORMATION concerning U.S.S.R. air capabilities is contained in Air Intelligence Division (AC/AS-2 - ONI) Study No. 125, "U.S.S.R. Intentions and Capabilities 1 October 1946 - 1 October 1947", and Hq. AAF Air Intelligence Reports No. 100-66-34, "Concept of Russian Air Warfare", and No. 100-45-34, "An Analysis of the Soviet Air Force". Assistant Chief of Air Staff - 5 has been furnished copies of these studies.

CONCLUSIONS

5. UNTIL THE ADVENT of atomic weapons, or comparable instruments of warfare, in the U.S.S.R., the Soviets probably will have little other than harassing air capabilities against the United States.

6. AT THE PRESENT TIME the Soviets are credited with being able to attack the United States with aircraft only by means of one-way flights of bombardment aircraft from the Uelen area. The Soviet ER-4 with a one-way range of 3000 miles has been built in considerable quantities - approximately 1000 estimated to have been completed by the end of World War II. Sufficient air facilities are available in the Uelen area to launch several hundred of these aircraft at any one time against the United States. One-way attacks against the United States would be costly and probably would not be used unless destructive agents more powerful than the conventional bomb are available. There is the possibility that attacks with conventional bombs might be made simultaneously with operations in other areas for psychological reasons or for the purpose of causing commitment of large numbers of aircraft for United States defense.



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7. THE U.S.S.R. probably is in the process of designing aircraft comparable to our B-29 or B-50. The Soviets are known to possess several of our B-29's and it is estimated that production of B-29 type aircraft is possible at a rate of 150/mo. starting early in 1948. Little information is available concerning development of long range aircraft of pure Soviet design. The TU-4 and ER-6 are four engine bombers reportedly under development and it is believed that by 1948 the Soviet Union could have perhaps 1,000 aircraft with operational characteristics at least as good as the present American B-17 and B-24, plus a range of approximately 4,000 miles.

8. THE U.S.S.R. is not considered capable of launching carrier or submarine based aircraft against the United States at this time, nor is it likely that such attacks can be made for several years. There is no evidence of Soviet capability to launch airborne attacks against the United States now or for several years.

9. ESTIMATES OF Soviet guided missile capabilities are highly speculative. There is no evidence to show when the Soviets will be capable of attacking the United States with long range guided missiles, but it is felt that such attacks are unlikely in the next three years.

10. THE POSSESSION of atomic weapons or similar weapons by the U.S.S.R. is the key to Soviet capabilities against the continental United States. Until the Soviets have weapons of this nature it can be seen that Soviet offensive air capabilities against the United States are of a harassing nature. Any Soviet air offensive which would not have decisive results would also be susceptible to strong United States countermeasures. The possession of atomic weapons by Russia today would give them tremendous capabilities against the United States. This capability will increase as the Soviets develop aircraft with increased range.

11. THE BEST estimate that can be made of Soviet atomic weapon capabilities is that there is a remote possibility that the Russians will have such weapons in the next two years; that the Soviets probably will have atomic weapons developed in about three years. It is to be emphasized that these estimates are speculative because of the lack of information concerning Russia and because of the highly restricted nature of atomic weapon intelligence in the United States.



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