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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

2 January 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : John H. Stein
Acting Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): Global Operations
By Aerospace Forces

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal 'Military Thought'. This article presents Soviet interpretations of American and British views on the employment of aerospace forces in a future war. It discusses the importance the Americans place on these forces, the development of new equipment and the strategy of employing it. The article also defines the objective of a global nuclear offensive and enumerates the tasks of the aerospace forces in accomplishing it. This article appeared in Issue No. 4 (65) for 1962.

2. Because the source of this report is extremely sensitive, this document should be handled on a strict need-to-know basis within recipient agencies. For ease of reference, reports from this publication have been assigned

John H. Stein

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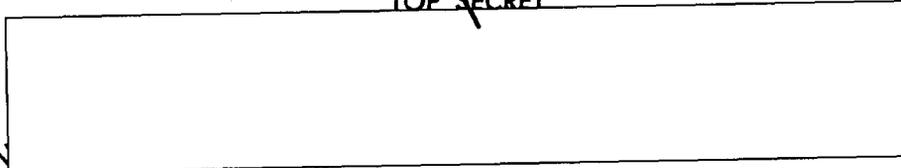
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Intelligence Information Special Report

Page 3 of 12 Pages

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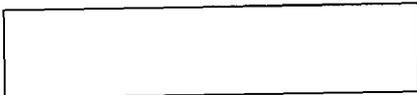
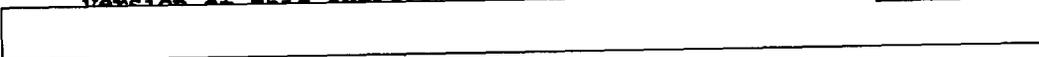
Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of an article which appeared in Issue No. 4 (65) for 1962 of the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". The author of this article is V. Nagrebetskiy, whose rank is not available. This article presents Soviet interpretations of American and British views on the employment of aerospace forces in a future war. It discusses the importance the Americans place on these forces, the development of new equipment and the strategy of employing it. The article also defines the objective of a global nuclear offensive and enumerates the tasks of the aerospace forces in accomplishing it.

End of Summary

Comment:

After 1962 the SECRET version of Military Thought was published three times annually and was distributed down to the level of division commander. It reportedly ceased publication at the end of 1970.



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Page 4 of 12 Pages

Global Operations By Aerospace Forces
(According to British and American Views)

by

V. NAGREBETSKIY

In preparing for thermonuclear war the military-political leadership of the US and Great Britain lays particular stress on the development of aerospace forces, by which is meant "aerodynamic aircraft, ballistic missiles, and space devices."* These delivery vehicles, equipped with nuclear warheads, are considered not only the principal means of armed combat, but also a powerful factor exerting an active influence on all forms of international relations.**

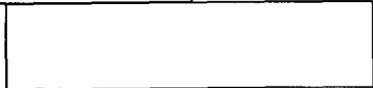
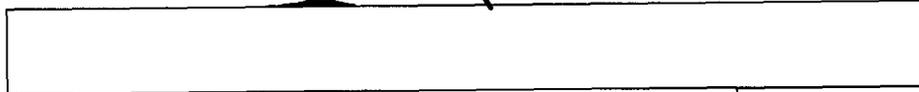
It should be noted that having given its strategic means such a weighty name as "aerospace forces," the American command for all practical purposes determined in advance what it wanted to have. At present the arsenal of these means contains only strategic aircraft and a certain number of long- and medium-range ballistic missiles, but there are as yet no combat space systems carrying nuclear warheads.

In devoting considerable attention to the growth of the quantitative and qualitative indices of aerospace weapons, and to the organizational structure of future aerospace large units and units, the military commands of the US and Great Britain at the same time are also speeding up the development of the theoretical bases of their employment. In recent years the principal efforts of British and American military scientific thought have been directed toward developing means of waging war, i.e. seeking the most effective forms and methods of using aerospace forces -- the kind that would predetermine the course and outcome of a war at its very beginning.

* Basic Doctrine of the US Air Force (aerospace doctrine). US Air Force Manual AFM 1-2, 1 December 1959, published by the Chief Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff, 1960, page 11.

** Ibid., page 12.

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The most acceptable form is recognized to be the so-called nuclear offensive, which assumes the unlimited use at the very beginning of a war of the most destructive and lethal means of combat. The nuclear offensive represents the further modernization of American military doctrine, particularly the increase in its offensive nature and aggressive orientation.

In the views of the US and British commands, the advantage of this kind of offensive over other strategic concepts lies in the fact that it expresses most completely the coalition, global, total, and extremely decisive nature of a future world war with its sudden beginning.

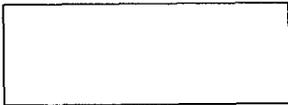
What is a nuclear offensive?

Judging by the individual statements made by military-political figures in the US, as well as from major exercises and maneuvers that have been held, this type of offensive is understood to mean the carrying out of a global aerospace operation using the maximum number of strategic and operational-tactical means of nuclear attack.

A nuclear offensive is considered to be an integrated operation. It consists of a number of operations carried out by the aerospace forces at the disposal of the supreme command, and by the means of nuclear attack of the armed forces in a theater of military operations. US military theoreticians consider the nuclear offensive to be a global operation of a special type, radically different in nature from those previously known. In form it consists not of a sequential moving of forces and means as in a conventional strategic offensive, but of a number of combat sorties by aviation, and of missile strikes, each of which is a complete action carried out at a speed incomparably greater than that at which strike forces move over land or over water (see diagram, page 11).

The first group of nuclear offensive operations consists of those which are to be conducted for the purpose of destroying installations located in the deep rear of an opposing coalition of states, mainly on the territory of the Soviet Union.

This group of operations, which are also known as global, are considered the main type, since, in the opinion of the Americans, these operations will be of decisive importance in achieving the ultimate goals of a war. To carry them out they plan to call upon aerospace means, in particular intercontinental ballistic missiles, medium-range missiles, and strategic aviation, and in the future -- various space bombing systems



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Page 6 of 12 Pages

capable of hitting targets on the ground with nuclear munitions.

The US command places all these aerospace means in the category of strategic means of combat. It does not plan to turn them over to any of its bloc allies, and their immediate use is to be in accordance with national strategic plans that have been developed. The strategic aerospace means of Great Britain are included in these plans as a part of those forces brought in to carry them out.

The second group of operations of a nuclear offensive includes operations using means of nuclear attack of the armed forces of a theater of military operations. To carry out these operations it is planned to use the tactical aviation, Mace and Matador cruise missiles, ground forces missiles Redstone, Pershing, Corporal, and Sergeant as well as carrier aviation of the navy, which are part of the armed forces of the given theater of military operations. When necessary and where possible, such strategic aerospace means as Polaris, Thor, and Jupiter missiles may be brought in to reinforce the nuclear offensive in a theater of military operations, as well as individual units of strategic aviation.

Thus, a nuclear offensive consists of operations by aerospace means and special operations carried out by nuclear means of the armed forces in a theater of military operations.

What are the objectives of a general global nuclear offensive, and of a nuclear offensive in a theater of military operations when the latter offensive is the principal element of the former?

The objective of a global nuclear offensive is to gain superiority in nuclear weapons and in space, seize the strategic initiative, and shift the armed forces of the military blocs headed by the US to a general strategic offensive.

The following are the tasks of aerospace forces in accomplishing this goal:

-- inflicting the greatest possible damage on the military-economic, and particularly the nuclear potential of the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist camp;

-- thwarting the mobilization expansion plans of the armed forces of the socialist states;

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Page 7 of 12 Pages

-- disrupting the political and economic administration of the country, as well as control of the armed forces;

-- preventing the transfer of large strategic reserves into the theater of military operations, and isolating the theater from the deep rear areas of the country;

-- demoralizing the rear of the socialist countries and creating "atomic chaos" in them.

The objectives and tasks of a global nuclear offensive were discussed in veiled form by US Secretary of Defense McNamara on 17 February 1962. Speaking to the American Bar Association in Chicago, he stated that a nuclear-offensive is a "single mass offensive." McNamara emphasized that "its main purpose will be to destroy such enemy means as to prevent a secondary strike on his part."

The objective of a nuclear offensive in a theater of military operations is to achieve nuclear supremacy and air superiority in the zone of the given theater, seize the initiative, and ensure that the armed forces in the theater make the transition to executing the initial

~~to achieve this objective~~

To achieve this, nuclear groupings of a theater of military operations are assigned tasks to destroy stores of nuclear weapons built up in the theater and the means for delivering them to target, to disrupt the operational-strategic deployment of front formations, to rout the offensive groupings of the armies of the socialist states, to deprive the command of the opposing side of the capability of controlling troops in an organized manner and employing means of mass destruction, and to prevent the shifting of forces from one front to another and the arrival of strategic reserves in the theaters of military operations.

As we see it, in a general nuclear offensive the central task of aerospace forces and nuclear groupings of armed forces in a theater of military operations is the destruction of nuclear weapons. This primary task must be carried out, in the opinion of the American command, even in the event that the US has superiority over the enemy in means of nuclear attack. US military theoreticians believe that the side that is first to deliver surprise massed thermonuclear strikes against targets which are important in the military sense, will gain a clear advantage over the one who is slow to make massive use of nuclear weapons and who dissipates his forces by delivering individual strikes.

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Page 8 of 12 Pages

In view of the objective of a nuclear offensive and the extent of its use, it must comprise the basic content of the initial period of a war. The operations of all branches of the armed forces are expected to be subordinated to its accomplishment. The military leadership of the US believes that the results of a nuclear offensive will determine the subsequent course of the war, particularly the subsequent use of armed forces.

Thus, a nuclear offensive is regarded by the military leaders of the US as a special type of ~~operation~~, capable of exerting a direct influence on the methods and forms of armed combat, as well as on the nature of subsequent operations.

In examining the aerospace forces of the US and Great Britain, it must be noted that the American-British bloc already possesses considerable capabilities for delivering nuclear strikes. The arsenal of this bloc's strategic aerospace means at the beginning of 1962 consisted of about 600 B-52 strategic heavy bombers; 1400 B-47 and B-58 medium bombers, ASD-2 and V-series bombers; up to 100 launchers for the Atlas and Titan intercontinental ballistic missiles and for the Snark strategic cruise missile; about 260 launchers for the Polaris, Thor, and Jupiter medium-range missiles.

The air forces in theaters of military operations at this same period of time included about 3,000 tactical fighters, ground-attack aircraft, and light bombers of tactical and carrier aviation, as well as about 100 launchers for the Mace, Matador, and Regulus.

At the present time the main grouping of aerospace forces is stationed in the continental part of the US, where all the intercontinental ballistic missiles, strategic cruise missiles, and heavy bombers are concentrated, as well as about 75 percent of the medium bombers. A comparatively small number of B-47 and V-series aircraft (about 300) are stationed in Great Britain, Spain, Morocco, Alaska, and on the island of Guam in the Pacific Ocean. All Thor and Jupiter missiles, as well as atomic submarines equipped with Polaris missiles, are stationed in the European zone. As for operational-tactical forces and means of nuclear attack, the majority of them (up to 65 percent) are stationed on the territory of Europe and in other theaters of military operations bordering the countries of the socialist camp.

From these data it follows that at present the basic means of delivering nuclear weapons continues to be aviation. Missiles constitute

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Page 9 of 12 Pages

only a small addition to it. But this situation is regarded as temporary. The US and British commands believe that missiles and bombing systems in outer space must in the future become the principal strike forces of aerospace means.

In formulating the theory of a nuclear offensive, the military leaders of the US first set out to develop the principles of using aerospace means of attack. By now these principles have for the most part been determined, and come down to, as is clear from the "Aerospace Doctrine of the US" and other documents, the employment of aerospace forces. These must be used together to achieve the overall objective of a war.

The combat readiness of aerospace forces must always be at a high level, so that they may be used effectively at the very outset of war. The planning of the employment of aerospace forces must be unified and flexible. It must take account of the capabilities of each branch of the armed forces for delivering strikes and ensure that they are redirected to those targets and areas which are of decisive importance. When using aerospace means it is essential to carefully and thoroughly consider their capabilities, the time and space factors, and possible ways of delivering and coordinating strikes by various command echelons. It is recommended that strategic calculations be performed in such a way as to prevent unnecessary expenditures of forces and means.

Particular attention is being given over to the problem of providing security for aerospace forces. Toward this end it is planned to develop measures of active and passive defense and procedures of action in case of alert. The overall preparation and direction of a nuclear offensive must be the prerogative principally of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the US. This organ contains a special directorate for selecting and allocating strategic targets, which is headed by the commander of strategic aviation. Since it is planned to launch a nuclear offensive on a global scale, it is anticipated that not only national means of aerospace attack will be brought in to take part, but coalition forces as well. Thus, the strategic echelons of Great Britain and regional commands of military blocs will both take part in the development of plans for a nuclear offensive. The latter carry out planning only of that part of the aerospace forces which is under their command.

The common guiding thread for all echelons involved in the development and planning of a nuclear offensive is the unity of its strategic concept and the allocation of tasks strictly according to target, time, and place. Our reconnaissance must take particular account of this, since detecting

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Page 10 of 12 Pages

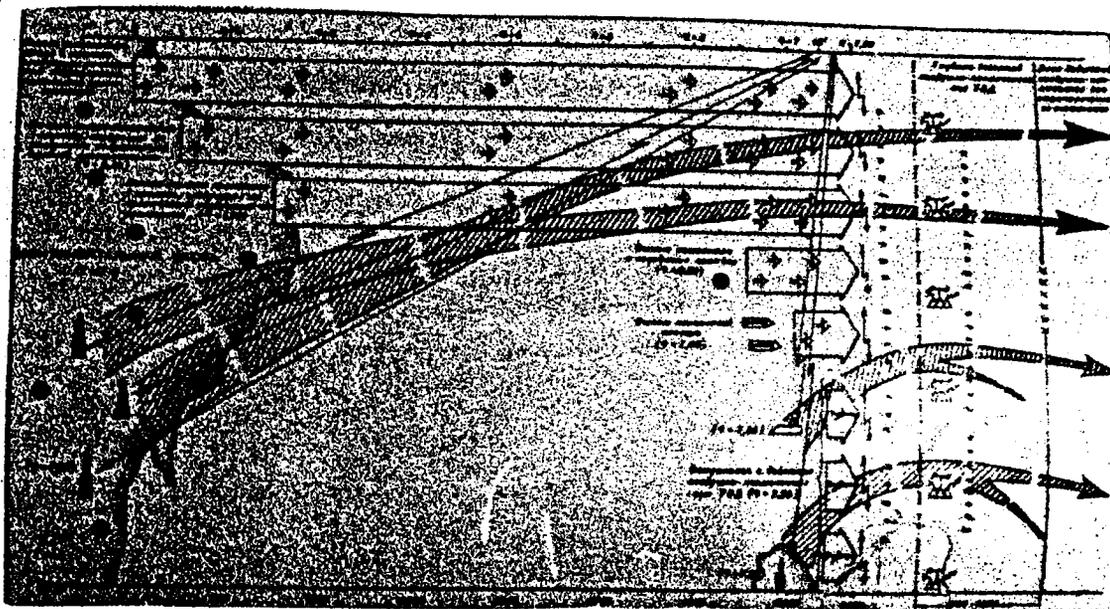
individual parts of a plan for a nuclear offensive makes it possible to form to a certain extent a picture of the offensive as a whole.

What is the main element in plans for the employment of aerospace means? Success in using aerospace means, and hence of a nuclear offensive as a whole, depends to a very great extent on reconnaissance against the most important enemy installations (targets). "To obtain this information," it is pointed out in the basic doctrine of the US Air Force, "the state must be ready to assume considerable risk."* Thus, targets of aerospace...

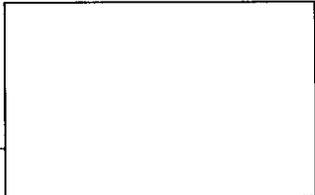
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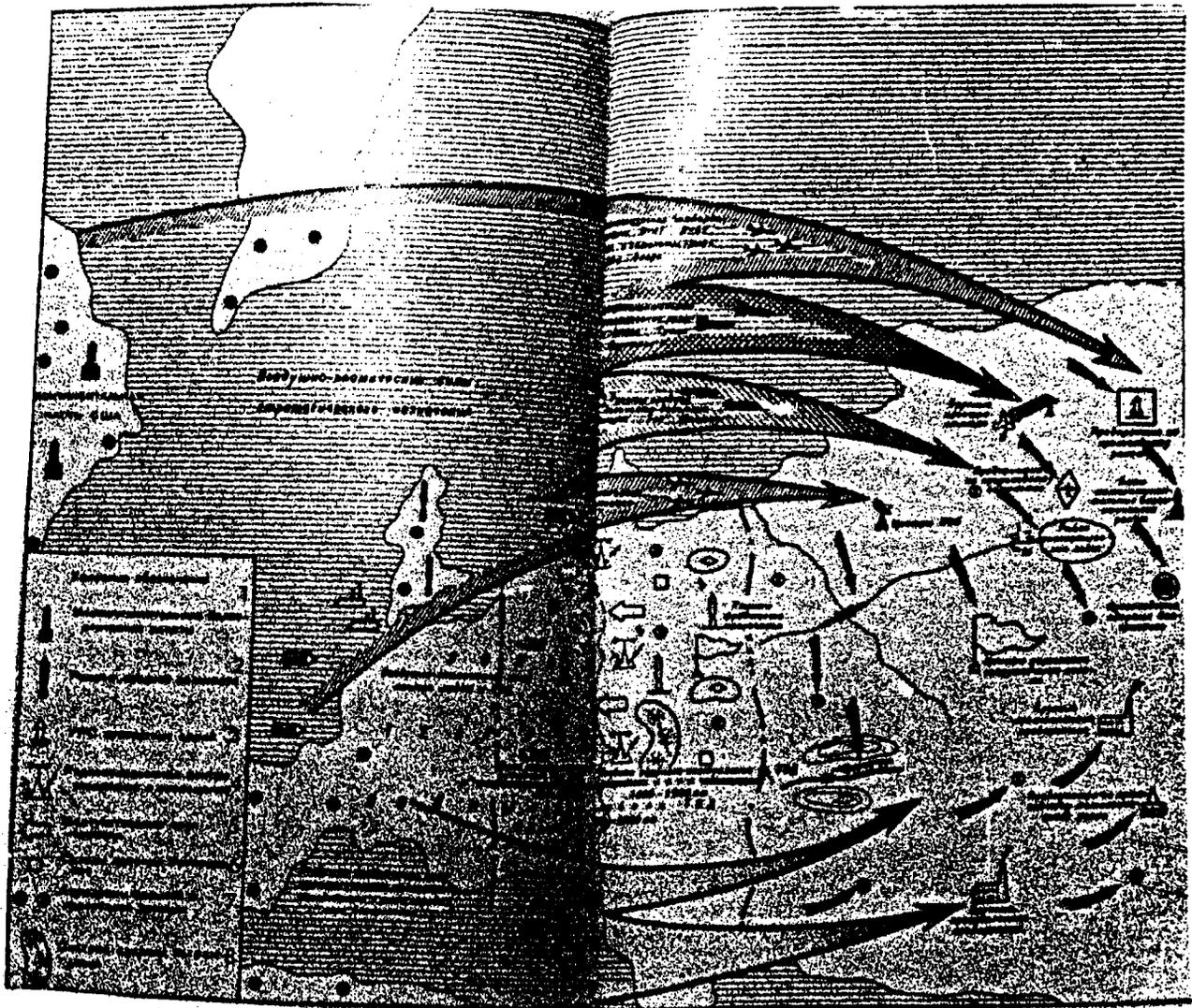
* Basic Doctrine of the US Air Force, AFM 1-2, page 9.

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The sequence and time of introducing the aerospace forces into a nuclear offensive (variant).





A nuclear offensive on an axis in one of the theaters of war (basic diagram).

LEGEND

1. Intercontinental ballistic missiles
2. Medium-range missiles
3. Missiles of the ground forces
4. Radar control and warning centers
5. Offensive groupings
6. Nuclear munitions depots
7. Long range and front aviation airfields
8. System of nuclear obstacles