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SMIC

## GUIDED MISSILE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

15 May 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Intelligence Advisory Committee

SUBJECT : First Operational Availability Date for Soviet ICBM

1. The Guided Missile Intelligence Committee (GMIC) is presently engaged in the preparation of its contribution to NIE 11-5-58, "Soviet Capabilities and Probable Programs in the Guided Missile Field for the Period 1958-1966".
2. Due to high national interest in a first operational availability date for the Soviet ICBM and the IAC pending action on SNIE 11-10-57, it was agreed that you should be advised that we now estimate that this date is probably 1959\*. The date has been set back six months from that contained in the last national estimate, SNIE 11-10-57, because the rate of Soviet ICBM testing thus far has not been as high as expected. In addition, a warhead weight significantly in excess of two thousand pounds is indicated by the reported weight of Sputnik III and the recent analysis based on the dimensions from the final stage of Sputnik II. However, the maximum warhead weight which the USSR could incorporate in an ICBM is still under study. We have not changed the estimated CEP of 5 nautical miles for the first operational ICBMs.
3. While there will be other changes affecting the ICBM estimate, we feel that these changes are the most significant and recommend that SNIE 11-10-57 be revised accordingly. Additional changes will be reflected in the final version of NIE 11-5-58.

*Earl McFarland, Jr.*  
EARL MCFARLAND, JR.  
Colonel, USAF  
Chairman, GMIC

\* The CIA member believes that the possibility of the USSR acquiring in the latter part of 1958 a limited operational ICBM capability, although with unproven accuracy and reliability, cannot be excluded.

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