

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 24, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN

**FROM: TOM GIBSON
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

SUBJECT: White House Talking Points

Attached for your information and use are talking points summarizing Soviet Military Power, based on the Department of Defense document Soviet Military Power 1987.

Also attached is a Bureau of Labor Statistics study on the continuing creation of jobs, and March Highlights, which outlines notable economic and domestic news. [Intentionally left out]

SOVIET MILITARY POWER 1987

The Department of Defense has reported to the Nation and to our allies on the continuing Soviet build up. That report, Soviet Military Power 1987, provides objective evidence of the continuing increase in Soviet strategic offensive, strategic defensive, and conventional military power that continues no matter who is General Secretary. The report was written to remind the world that the Soviet political system fosters the growth of Soviet military power and is sustained by Soviet military power.

- 0 The Soviet political system provides for, and sustains, long-term investments in military research and development, as well as long-term support for production and deployment of new weapons systems.
- 0 The entire Soviet military structure is developed, fielded and operated without the public debate and scrutiny on funding and other issues that are fundamental in free societies.

COMPARING U.S. AND SOVIET PROCUREMENT

The Soviets are committed to expand their already formidable arsenal of weapons. Over the past 10 years, their procurement of new weapons systems has far exceeded our own.

- 0 Intercontinental (ICBM) and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM): The Soviets outproduced us by almost four-to-one.
- 0 Surface-to-air-missiles: The Soviets outproduced us almost nine-to-one.
- 0 Fighter aircraft: The Soviets outproduced us more than two-to-one.
- 0 Tanks: The Soviets outproduced us more than three-to-one.

AMERICA'S STRATEGY

- 0 The United States, along with our friends and allies, has come a long way in allocating the resources necessary to restore the strength of America's deterrent forces.
- 0 We do not seek to match the Soviets weapon for weapon, nor do we seek military superiority.
- 0 However, we must fund an adequate defense program, one that is grounded in a clear understanding of the nature and character of the threats posed to our national interests.

WHITE HOUSE TALKING POINTS

ASSESSING SOVIET STRATEGY

- 0 The evidence is clear: The Soviets have every intention of fielding an entirely new generation of intercontinental missiles by the mid-1990s which will be more accurate, and have far more warheads than their predecessors.

The road mobile SS-25, the most recently deployed Soviet ICBM, has been increased from 70 launchers to 100 launchers.

Deployment of the SS-25 continues.

Deployment of the rail mobile SS-X-24 is imminent.

A follow-on missile to the SS-18 MOD4 ICBM will be tested.

- 0 The survivability and flexibility of Soviet strategic offensive forces is being enhanced with the introduction of two new heavy bombers, each armed with the AS-15 long-range, nuclear cruise missile. Some 50 BEAR-H bombers are now operational. At least seven supersonic BLACKJACK bombers have been built and are now being flight-tested.

THE SOVIET STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

- 0 Since the very beginning of the nuclear age, the Soviets have rejected the notion of shared vulnerability and placed great importance on limiting the amount of damage the USSR would sustain in a global war. The Soviet Union's strategic defense program has cost them the equivalent of some \$200 billion over the past ten years.
- 0 They maintain the world's only operational anti-satellite system; and have deployed around Moscow the world's only operational anti-ballistic missile system.
- 0 During the past year, we have identified the construction of three additional large phased array ballistic missile warning and tracking radars, beyond the six previously reported. These nine radars will be able to track more ballistic missiles with greater accuracy than the Soviets' existing HEN HOUSE radar network.

SOVIET CONVENTIONAL FORCES

- 0 While the Soviets are modernizing all elements of their strategic forces, they have not shortchanged conventional forces. Their goal appears to be the achievement of a mix of nuclear and conventional forces that will enable them to fight and prevail at any level of conflict.

0 Evidence of the Soviet development of conventional forces:

Fielding of T-80 tanks with reactive armor. When struck by an anti-tank round, this armor itself explodes and dissipates the force of the anti-tank munition.

Production of the HOKUM helicopter, which may have an air-to-air role, will soon begin. This development would present a serious challenge to our ability to provide close-air support over the battlefield.

Production and deployment of the high-technology FLANKER and FULCRUM fighters continues. By the early 1990s, when both aircraft are deployed in significant numbers, they will pose a formidable threat to the United States and our allies.

The Soviet Union has put to sea an offensive-capable blue-water navy that provides the Kremlin with a major arm of its global military reach. Today the Soviet Navy supports Soviet military expansion from Nicaragua to the South Pacific, from Vietnam to Africa. Fitting out continues on the new Soviet aircraft carrier "Leonid Brezhnev" and a second carrier of this class is under construction.

SOVIET POWER AND SOVIET POLICY

- 0 Soviet leaders have a clear understanding of the utility of military power as an instrument of Soviet foreign policy. Thus, in peacetime, we must be concerned with the increasing Soviet ability to project their conventional military power into areas peripheral to the Soviet Union -- like Afghanistan -- and into areas far distant from the Soviet Union -- like Nicaragua and Vietnam.**
- 0 Despite a token withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan last fall, part of which was a sham and part involved tactically irrelevant forces, the Soviets continue their drive against any resistance to the imposition of their political will on the Afghan people.**
- 0 In 1986 alone, the Soviets delivered some 23,000 metric tons of military equipment to the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua. That equipment was worth approximately \$600 million.**
- 0 In Southeast Asia, astride the critical commercial sea lines of communication of the Western Pacific basin, the Soviets are improving their capability to project air and naval power by expanding their military base at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam.**

WHITE HOUSE TALKING POINTS

THE AMERICAN APPROACH

- 0 To meet the Soviet challenge, the United States, in coordination with allies and friends who share common security interests, is taking a dual approach.
 - 1. Establish the essential strategies, policies, and programs, and appropriate the funds to improve the capabilities of our forces and those of our friends and allies to deter Soviet aggression in all its forms. In particular, we seek a way to enhance deterrence through a defense against the ever-improving Soviet offensive ballistic missile force.
 - 2. Seek a more stable military balance through negotiation of significant, verifiable arms reduction agreements.

- 0 By better understanding Soviet military power and the threats it imposes on us, informed citizens everywhere will be better able to know how to secure our transcendent goals of peace, freedom and security.

Since 1970 the Soviets have invested \$500 billion more on their military forces than we have... With 120,000 Soviet combat and military personnel and 15,000 military advisers in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, can anyone still doubt their single-minded determination to expand their powers?

President Reagan
January 27, 1987