

P52/58 of 12 Feb. 1987

Resolution of the CC CPSU
About the proposal of comrade Y. P Velikhov.

To agree with the argumentation presented in the note of comrades L. N. Zaikov, V. M. Chebrikov and S. F. Akhromeyev of February ____, 1987 on this subject (enclosed).

CC Secretary

CPSU CC

On the proposal of comrade Y. P. Velikhov.

Academician Y. P. Velikhov proposes arranging a visit by foreign scientists and journalists to the 10th State scientific-research test range of the USSR Defense Ministry near the town of Sary Shagan, and to offer the invitation in the process of M.S. Gorbachev's meeting with participants of the forum of peace forces in Moscow on February 16th this year.

The Americans know about the presence of land-based laser devices (along with other types of Air Defense weapons) on the territory of the Sary Shagan test range. For lack of information about the state of work at the test range, this fact is being speculatively used by western propaganda outlets. For example, it is being claimed that the Soviet Union is far advanced in work on laser weapons, and that laser installations of Sary Shagan test range are elements of the ABM. The U.S. military-industrial circles use this, in particular, as grounds for accelerating their own efforts on SDI.

The following facts were taken into consideration when studying academician Y. P. Velikhov's proposal on Sary Shagan test range:

There are a number of laser systems at the test range:

1. The Terra-3K experimental complex meant to optimize the system of guidance of anti-satellite weapons, which includes an optical telescope and an simulator of a high-energy laser with a power up to 5 kW;
2. The LE-1 locator, using a combined optical tract of 49 low-power ruby laser beams to measure trajectory parameters of space vehicles with the precision of 10 m at distances of up to 500 km;

3. The Omega-2M complex which is a combination of a powerful gas laser (on the order of 0.7 MW) with an optical-electronic sight and complex Balkhash-1 used for optimization in the interests of Air Defense.

The Terra-3 and LE-1 complexes are obsolete; they use early 1970s components. Their demonstration will create the impression of our insincerity, because the high scientific level of our laser equipment research is well known in the world.

The location of sites on the test range is such that when visiting the Terra-3 and LE-1 facilities, various ABM and Air Defense facilities come into view, including the range's Amur-II firing complex of the A-135 system of Moscow's ABM, various radars of missile attack warning, and means of the new S-300P anti-aircraft system.

Besides, it cannot be ruled out that the Americans are aware of our further work at the range on building the experimental module of anti-space defense, Gamma, by 1991, and provocative talks about Sary Shagan range and offers to exchange visits to this range and the range in the United States, White Sands, have as their goal obtaining some additional information about our new work.

In political sense, the visit to the range will likely have a negative effect, it will not be perceived in general as successfully impromptu, but as a pre-arranged and a rather primitive propaganda trick, organized at the highest level and not fitting the serious approach of the country's leadership to the military-political initiatives of recent times.

That's why we would consider it expedient to refrain from the visit of Saryshagan range by foreign scientists and journalists.

L.Zaikov V.Chebrikov S.Akhromeyev