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HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: C

1 6 MAY 1961

SUBJECT: (U) USSR Nuclear Testing

TO: Joint Chiefs of Staff
Wash 25 D C

1. My staff has recently briefed me on the contents of Special National Intelligence Estimate Number 11-9-61; PIC/JR-1002/61; Study from ACS/I, Esdquarters USAF, dated 21 March 1961; and correspondence dated 20 March 1961 from Major General James H. Walsh, APCIN, to Mr. Allen Dulles. A careful evaluation of the material contained in these sources leads me to believe that the Soviets have been engaged in surreptitious nuclear testing despite their loud protestations to the contrary. It would be unnecessary for me to point out the vital and numerous advantages they can gain through conducting such covert tests, including both the improvement of existing weapons and the development of important new ones. (S)

2. It is my firm opinion that it is extremely dangerous for this country to continue its present self-imposed prohibition against nuclear testing if the Soviets are continuing to conduct such tests. We are permitting them simultaneously to derive the considerable benefits from these tests and, at the same time, to bask in the limelight of world approbation because they are not generally known to be conducting them. (U)

3. I urge the submission to appropriate authority of:

a. Evidence showing surreptitious Soviet nuclear testing. (S)

b. The recommendation that the U.S. resume testing without delay in order that we may proceed with an orderly weapons development program necessitated by advanced delivery systems. (S)

DECLASSIFIED
By *WJ* Date *11/20/80*

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