

APPENDIX C: RESEARCH QUESTIONS FOR U.S. INTERVIEW RESPONDENTS

The following questions served as a guide for the interviewer in gathering the views of senior U.S. national security officials and of analysts who were regularly exposed to senior decision makers. The interviewer asked the respondents to attempt to recall beliefs and attitudes they held at the time they occupied their official positions and to try not to contaminate their views with information and changed attitudes that may have come with exposure to more or different information after they had left office.

Research Questions for Former U.S. National Security Officials

Research Project: "Soviet Strategic Intentions 1965-1985; An Analytical Comparison of U.S. Cold-War Interpretations and Soviet Post-Cold-War Testimonial Evidence."

September 9, 1991

1. Did the Soviet leadership believe they could fight and win: a conventional war? A nuclear war? Were they prepared or interested in initiating warfare? Conventional? Nuclear?
2. Did the Soviet leadership accept or support the concept of deterrence?
3. Were the Soviets prepared to initiate the use of nuclear weapons or to preempt nuclear use by the U.S. or NATO?
4. What was the Soviet attitude toward nuclear use in theater warfare? Were they prepared or very willing to use nuclear weapons? First? In retaliation?
5. Were the Soviets prepared (willing, eager) to expand a theater nuclear war to a global nuclear war? What was the Soviet policy or doctrine with respect to escalation from conventional to nuclear war and toward escalation once nuclear weapons had been used?
6. Did the Soviet leadership accept or plan for use of selected or limited nuclear strikes? In theater? Intercontinentally?
7. Did the Soviets accept strategic parity or were they striving for strategic superiority? If striving for strategic superiority, then to what purpose? Political coercion? A preemptive, unanswerable first strike against the U.S. and NATO in the event of war?
8. What do you believe explains the massive Soviet arms buildup over several decades? U.S. and NATO competition? Other factors?
9. Were the Soviets prepared to make use of offensive chemical weapons? Under what conditions?
10. Did the U.S. engage in economic warfare with the Soviet Union by forcing accelerated Soviet investment in armaments through continuous, technology-based competition?
11. What sources did you rely on for information and analysis about Soviet military capabilities and intentions? Your own experience? Non-government sources? The intelligence community? Did you rely on the intelligence community primarily for data or for both data and interpretive analysis?