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## The President's MX Report

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# Developments in U.S., Soviet capabilities

*The just-released 18-page report of the White House to the U.S. Congress detailing the case for construction of the MX missile contains sections dealing with both Soviet and U.S. development of strategic capabilities during 1984. Excerpts from these sections follow.*

On the Soviet side:

- Modernization of the Soviets' fourth generation Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) continued with the modification and deployment of an additional 30 SS-19s (carrying a total of 180 highly accurate warheads). At the same time, development and flight test of both the new SS-X-24 ICBM with 10 warheads and the single-warhead SS-X-25 ICBM continued (despite the fact that SS-X-25 testing violates at least two provisions of the unratified SALT II Treaty as documented in the February 1985 Report to Congress on Soviet Noncompliance). We anticipate that both SS-X-24s and SS-X-25s will be deployed in silos as well as on mobile launchers over the next few years.

- Three types of strategic bombers are in production or development. Production continues on the Backfire and Bear H bombers. The Bear H achieved its Initial Operational Capability (IOC) with the new AS-15 air-launched cruise missile during 1984. This deployment is advancing more rapidly than we projected one year ago. Advanced development of the new Blackjack bomber, similar to but larger than the B-1B, also continued, and we expect it to be ready for deployment before the end of the decade.

- An additional Typhoon-class missile submarine (SSBN) (the third) joined the Soviet Navy, as did the first and second ship of a second new class of SSBNs, the *Delta IV*. Testing of the *Delta IV*'s sea-launched ballistic missile, the SS-NX-23, also continued throughout 1984, and an IOC in the near term is expected. In a related development, flight testing of a long-range sea-launched cruise missile (SS-NX-21) appears to have been completed and the missile may already be operationally deployed on submarines near U.S. coasts.

In addition to this accumulation of offensive intercontinental nuclear forces, the Soviet Union in 1984 continued to:

- improve its massive air defenses;

- upgrade the Moscow anti-ballistic missile (ABM) system and construct large phased array radars (one of which constitutes a violation of the legal obligations under the ABM Treaty);

- perform extensive research and development (R&D) on a rapidly deployable ABM as well as extensive R&D on a space-based strategic defense system, and on new air defense missiles with capabilities against some types of ballistic missiles; and,

- Deploy significant numbers of new intermediate- and short-range nuclear missiles and artillery systems.

On the U.S. side:

- The remaining two squadrons of B-52Gs identified for conversion to air-launched cruise missile (ALCM) carriage became operational, bringing the total to five squadrons (90 B-52s with 1,080 ALCMs). Additionally, preparations to begin ALCM conversion of the B-52H force proceeded on schedule, with modification of the first aircraft scheduled to start in July 1985. Moreover, our first new long-range strategic bomber aircraft in over 30 years, the B-1B, was delivered for test and evaluation in October 1984. The B-1B is scheduled to enter the Strategic Air Command's inventory next year.

- The Trident submarine USS *Georgia* began operational patrol, the fourth Trident, USS *Florida*, was commissioned and the fifth Trident, USS *Henry M. Jackson*, began sea-trials. *Florida* began operations recently, and the *Jackson* will begin regularly scheduled operations later this year. Additionally, in June 1984, the nuclear version of the Tomahawk land-attack cruise missile (TLAM-N) achieved its scheduled IOC aboard selected submarines and surface combatants.

- The Ground Wave Emergency Network (GWEN) achieved its initial connectivity capability, thereby increasing the difficulty of attempting to preempt U.S. retaliation by attacking our command, control, and communications system. The third electro-magnetic pulse (EMP) hardened National Emergency Airborne Command Post (E-4B) was delivered last year. Additionally, we began improvements to the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS).

- 1984 also witnessed three more highly successful Peacekeeper test flights (the fourth, fifth and sixth tests in that series) concluding Phase I of the test flight program. The seventh test flight, which occurred on Feb. 1, 1985, was also successful. The Peacekeeper continues to perform exceptionally well, achieving accuracies which are better than design requirements. Additionally, production of the first 21 Peacekeeper missiles is underway, as well as support facility construction. All aspects of this program are progressing smoothly and are well within cost estimates. In fact, with the release of the FY 85 funds, the program will be over 50% complete in terms of total program funds.