

Union's capability is growing and is believed to include: (a) a high priority large-scale atomic energy programme which is expanding; (b) a substantial stockpile of fissionable materials; (c) the capacity of producing explosives in the range from the equivalent of a few kilotons up to approximately 1,000 kilotons of TNT; and (d) a constantly improving and expanding aircraft production programme including long-range jet aircraft.

3. Megaton thermonuclear weapons have already been developed on both sides of the Iron Curtain of such devastating power that their effective use might imperil the ability of even the greatest nation to recover quickly and carry on the war effectively.

4. Within a few years the Soviet Union is expected to have a sufficient number of intercontinental bombers to deliver an attack of catastrophic force against this Continent, although at the grave risk of exposing itself to a retaliatory blow of equal or greater force, unless it develops a defensive capacity beyond the degree now foreseen.

5. Within ten years, as a result of the development of intercontinental ballistic missiles, it is probable that neither side will be able reasonably to expect that by striking the first blow it could eliminate the power of the other to inflict mortal damage.

Political

6. Canada and its NATO allies will remain united in the resolve to maintain an effective regional system of collective security, in the absence of an effective universal system of collective security; and that this regional security system will include the maintenance of a nuclear deterrent capability, until an effective international armaments control system becomes feasible.

7. The United States and the United Kingdom Governments will be restrained by moral and spiritual conviction brought to bear by their public opinion from initiating a nuclear or any other kind of war, except in retaliation against an act of overt armed aggression; nevertheless, they will remain resolute to retaliate against all-out Soviet attack.

8. The United States will be prepared to use the threat of nuclear retaliation of less than total force to deter local or limited Communist military aggression and to use smaller nuclear weapons in local and limited wars if necessary.

9. The Soviet Union has every reason to avoid embarking on general war in the near future, both because it can have no prospect of escaping nuclear retaliation and because war is not essential to the pursuit of its basic aims. The most dangerous possibilities are (a) that the use of force in a local and limited conflict might lead to general war by accident or miscalculation, and (b) that the Soviets may miscalculate U.S. intentions by believing that the Soviet Union is about to be attacked. In the latter event, the Soviet Union might consider it vital to its interests to attack in an effort to forestall U.S. action. The fact that, under conditions of mounting international tension, it is more difficult to distinguish between real and apparent threats to vital national interests and security, suggests that the U.S.S.R. (as well as the Western Powers) have an interest in reducing international tensions, at least to the point where they are able to calculate more accurately the possibility or likelihood of all-out attack.

10. Even if it is assumed that the Soviet Union co-operates in the reduction of international tensions, there is as yet no evidence on which to base any expectation that they, or the other countries of the Communist bloc, will abandon in any essential way the pursuit of their political aims by subversive means.