

to mobilization and the conversion of industry from a peace to a war footing. I have discussed the threat on previous occasions, but as all our preparations are linked with the appreciation of the threat it is perhaps worth while emphasizing some of the aspects of this part of our defence problem.

The evaluation of the threat cannot be completely reliable, since development of ways and means of waging war is of necessity one of the most closely guarded secrets of any country. In fact the record shows that there has been a tendency in the past to underestimate the achievements of the Soviets in this particular field. They have been particularly successful in concealing their intentions. However, the best assessment that we can make of the type and scale of attack against this continent is roughly as follows.

Nature of Possible Attack

For the present and in the immediate future the principal attack against North America would be by a relatively small number of long-range manned bombers carrying megaton weapons. These might well be augmented by a large number of medium bombers on one-way missions carrying nuclear weapons of varying yields. Russia might not care if she had to jeopardise these one-way mission bombers. In the early 1960's it is expected that the ballistic missiles will have reached a stage of reliability whereby such missiles will replace the bombers as the primary means of delivering nuclear weapons on North America. However, if an attack on this continent is made in the early 1960's it is considered quite probable that a variety of weapons would be used in an effort to saturate the defences and thus deliver a devastating attack.

This kind of attack would include ballistic missiles both long and short range, land based or from submarines, as well as other nuclear weapons delivered by aircraft. As most of the major strategic targets are situated in the United States it is more than likely that certain targets in Canada would be attacked by bombers, although the primary threat would be from the ICBM's.

It is not possible to say with any degree of accuracy when the ICBM will be available in sufficient numbers to take on all the targets in North America, or when we can completely dispense with the requirement for defence against the bomber. In other words we believe we may have to face a combination of weapons, some delivered as ballistic missiles and others from manned bombers. Thus the possibility of attacks on Canada by manned bombers may extend into the mid-1960's, although the threat compared to the missile, would be on a diminishing scale.