

Table 14

<u>Bomber Ceilings</u>		
Type	Number	Warheads
B-52 G and H	120	1500 ALCMs
B-1B	100	Variable*
Stealth	130	Unknown *

* 3000 Gravity bombs and SRAMs might be carried by a 350 bomber force together with 1500 ALCMs

The Congress has currently authorized the purchase of 100 B-1B bombers. The Stealth bomber, now in the development stage, is designed as a penetrator, and current USAF plans call for a purchase of 130. The combination of B-52s, B-1Bs and Stealth bombers produces 350, therefore, with B-52s currently deployed in a penetrator role being retired as the modern bombers are deployed.

Would the Soviet Union agree to a ceiling of 350 heavy bombers? It should be remembered that the Soviet Union currently deploys only about 175 heavy bombers, a number which has stayed roughly constant over the past 25 years. However, the Soviets have now opened the Bear-H production line. According to American sources, they are deploying these aircrafts with the AS-15 cruise missiles. Each Bear-H carries 8 AS-15s, with a range of 3000 kms.

Additionally, the Soviets have developed a new supersonic bomber - the Blackjack, which may enter service in 1988 or 1989. The Blackjack, may also be a cruise missile carrier, but, if so, it would be an expensive addition if it were deployed only as a stand-off ALCM platform. On the other hand if the Blackjack is seen as a penetrator bomber comparable to the B-1, it would tend to emphasize the point that the Soviets lag behind