

mament, is the other widely used annual source on the subject. Each edition of the Yearbook includes a chapter on the nuclear balance which gives an overview of new developments accompanied by charts of the strategic and tactical forces of all nuclear weapon states. In 1985, SIPRI began to use a new set of authors and thereby introduced a different emphasis into their evaluation of the balance. In the previous years SIPRI had always presented what might be termed a 'traditional' evaluation of the balance, listing missile and warhead totals along with missile characteristics such as yield and accuracy. The 1985 and 1986 charts placed more emphasis on warhead stockpiles and less emphasis on qualitative factors. Members of the US-based Natural Resources Defense Council, who also publish the Nuclear Weapons Databook series (see below), now prepare this chapter for SIPRI. As with the IISS, changes in the data from year to year may be the result of factors other than changes in force levels.

*Soviet Military Power* (SMP) is an annual review of Soviet forces published by the US Department of Defense. There is heavy emphasis on the quantity and size of Soviet forces and little discussion of quality and performance. The publication also contains information on American force deployments but this information is much more general in nature. While *Soviet Military Power* tends to serve a public relations role, it is an important barometer of official American thinking on Soviet forces, and on upcoming Soviet weapons systems.

The military posture statement published by the US Joint Chiefs of Staff every fiscal year is the best summary of the American government's view of its own forces and defence spending. The *Annual Report to Congress* by the US Secretary of Defense also provides a view of American forces and provides an estimate of Soviet forces similar in nature and intent to *Soviet Military Power*.

*Whence the Threat to Peace* is published by the Soviet Union primarily as a response to *Soviet Military Power*. *Whence the Threat to Peace* emphasizes the quality of American strategic forces and, like *Soviet Military Power*, makes no direct comparison between Soviet and American forces. The Soviet publication contains very little information on Soviet forces. The most recent edition of *Whence the Threat to Peace* was published in 1984.

Information on Soviet nuclear forces can also be found in the Soviet media. (See, for example, "The Armaments of the USSR and the US: Data to Compare," *USSR News Release*, no. 10, 23 January 1987.)

A comprehensive examination of the characteristics and capabilities of US nuclear weapons systems is provided by the Natural Resources Defense Council, an independent research organization. *US*

*Nuclear Forces and Capabilities*, the first volume in their series of Nuclear Weapons Databooks, is a detailed compendium of information compiled from an extensive list of sources, including more than 200 requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The volume is an indispensable reference manual although it does not undertake counts of deployed missiles such as those found in other sources.

*The US-Soviet Military Balance 1980-1985* by Congressional Research Service analyst John M. Collins offers an extensive record of the US-Soviet balance in nuclear, chemical and conventional arms. Fact sheets or press releases from the Arms Control Association and the Center for Defense Information in Washington, D.C., also provide assessments of the strategic balance and are useful updates on the latest developments.

The Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies in Brookline, Massachusetts has published the first edition in their World Weapons Databook series, *Soviet Missiles*. The first volume provides a comparison of estimates of missile numbers and characteristics from a number of different sources, providing a useful overview of the range of opinion on Soviet missile characteristics. IDDS also publishes the *Arms Control Reporter*, an annual summary of key negotiations; it is supplemented with monthly updates.

In addition to these publications, information is available from other sources which are not necessarily solely concerned with nuclear forces. *Aviation Week and Space Technology* (AW&ST), *Air Force Magazine* and *Jane's Defence Weekly* can all be valuable sources. Designed primarily for a military and trade readership, these journals have excellent 'inside' sources and often contain detailed information on both Soviet and American strategic forces. While these periodicals are very useful, care must be taken in using the information; there is a fine distinction between access to inside sources and the release of information designed to lead the public debate in a desired direction.

The CIA National Intelligence Estimates sometimes offer key insights into the evaluation process. For example, in July 1985 the CIA revised its previous judgement on the accuracy of the Soviet SS-19 missile, concluding that it was about 100 metres less accurate than had previously been thought. Although largely unnoticed in public debate, this revision had a critical effect on the estimated counterforce capability of the SS-19 (see below) and consequently on the perceived vulnerability of American land-based missiles. Apart from the substantive issue, the CIA revision — disputed by its sister organization the Defense Intelligence Agency