

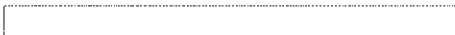


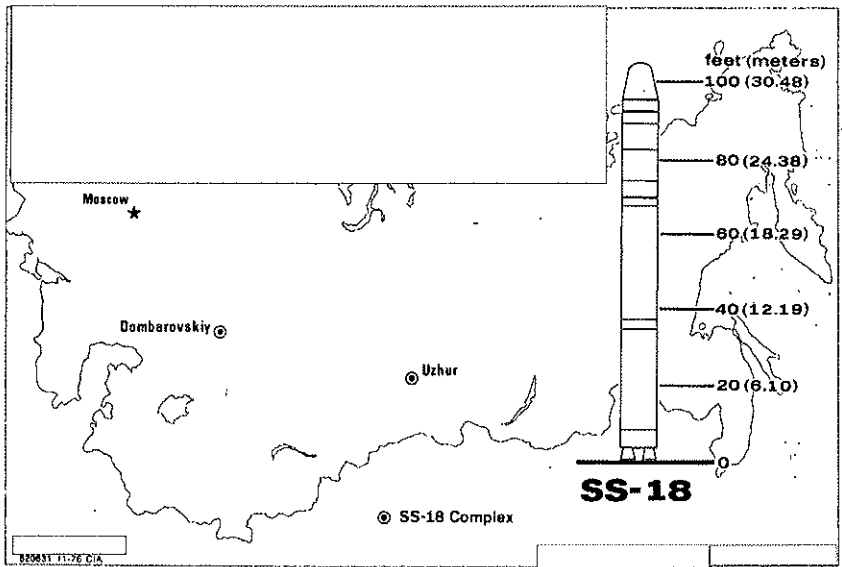
The President's Daily Brief

November 5, 1976

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR: *The MIRV-equipped SS-18 ICBM may now be operational. This version of the SS-18 is the Soviet's largest MIRV missile and has been tested with as many as 10 re-entry vehicles.*

The Soviets appear to have completed the conversion of two more groups of SS-9 silos for the SS-18. Each of these groups contains six silos; at one location the Soviets late last year apparently began stockpiling warheads used with MIRV systems. No warhead canisters of any type have been observed at the location of the other group.

The Soviets now have 48 operational SS-18 launchers and are working on 86 more. The conversion program probably will be completed in 1980, giving them 308 operational SS-18 launchers. Most of these launchers will probably be equipped with the MIRV version of the SS-18.

The MIRV-equipped SS-18 has been tested with varying numbers of re-entry vehicles. On most of its early test flights it carried eight re-entry vehicles--four large and four small. Since mid-1975 most of the missiles have carried 10 of the smaller re-entry vehicles. Both the eight- and ten-re-entry vehicle types have been tested extensively, suggesting that both will be fielded.

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