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DRAFT

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It is still believed that the earliest possible date of mid-1950 and the probable date of mid-1953 for the completion of the first Soviet atomic bomb represent the best possible estimates which can be made at this time. The earliest date is based principally on U.S., British, and Canadian experience in the field of atomic energy, and from this the probable date is estimated from a comparison of Russian and American industrial performance in other fields of similar size and complexity.

Much information has been received within the last year which tends to localize the Soviet atomic bomb effort and is indicative of some of the progress being made, but this information is not of sufficient detail to permit a definite determination of the exact status and projected course of the Soviet program.

Estimates of Soviet bomb production depend upon estimates of the accumulation and current production of uranium. The figures on bomb stockpile quoted in preceding reports were derived from geological theory and low-grade intelligence reports on uranium mining. Unconfirmed reports from well-placed sources indicate that uranium production is much higher than it was previously believed to be. However, until the reliability of these reports can be established, it is premature to revise upward the estimate of bomb stockpile, which therefore remains for 1953 at about 50 in case of a mid-1950 initial test and about 20 in case of a mid-1953 initial test.

**UNDER SECRETARY'S OFFICE**

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