

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

2. USSR FIRES MISSILE 950 NAUTICAL MILES

[redacted] [redacted] the firing of a ballistic missile--designated a "63-series" missile--to the 950-nautical-mile impact area of the Kapustin Yar guided-missile test range.

Comment

This is the first evidence of a Soviet ballistic missile firing to such a distance. Previous firings have not exceeded a 650-nautical-mile range. The new downrange stations involved in this firing have been active since July 1956, and had recently been engaged in extensive practice procedures.

The "63-series" is probably a new missile test series. Although this could be the first test of a new missile, it more probably involved the present 650-700-nautical-mile missile modified by the reduction of warhead weight. Such a modified missile could have a maximum operational range of 1,000 to 1,200 nautical miles.

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