

1 August 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: "Ghost Rockets" over Scandinavia

1. Since 25 May there have been occasional press reports of "ghost rockets" seen passing over points in Sweden. On 19 July two such "rockets" were reported to have fallen in Norway. The Swedish and Norwegian Governments have now imposed a news blackout with respect to the subject.
2. Official sources, principally the Military Attache at Stockholm, have confirmed these reports and obtained additional, but inconclusive, information. Although ten such missiles have fallen within Sweden, the Swedish General Staff has as yet been unable to reach firm conclusions on the basis of the fragments recovered.
3. From the information presently available, the Director of Intelligence, WDGS, has concluded that:
 - a. The missiles are of the jet-propelled V-1 type (rather than rockets).
 - b. They contain only small demolition charges (for self-destruction) rather than a warhead.
 - c. They outrange the V-1. This result could be achieved by construction from light, non-ferrous materials, and by the substitution of additional fuel for the heavy warhead. It could also be achieved by the use of a turbo-jet engine such as the Germans were developing at the close of the war. German scientists in Soviet employ are capable of completing this development, and the characteristic noiselessness reported supports the supposition of its use.
 - d. Their course is apparently controlled, either by radio or pre-set controls. (Turns and circular courses have been indicated).
 - e. Their launching from some Soviet-controlled point

DECLASSIFIED

U. S. GOV. PRINTING OFFICE: 1967
44-769059
MAR. 04 7/67

32

in the vicinity of the Gulf of Finland is probable.

4. Since the interior of the U.S.S.R. affords areas suitable for extensive and undetected experimentation, the launching of these missiles over Scandinavia must be a deliberate demonstration for political effect. In this, the Soviet objectives might be:

a. Intimidation of Sweden and Norway, by a demonstration of their vulnerability to attack with such missiles.

b. Intimidation of Great Britain, by demonstration of the vulnerability of the United Kingdom to such attack from continental areas which the Soviets now control or are capable of seizing.

c. Intimidation of the United States by a demonstration of Soviet capabilities for the scientific development of new weapons.

FOR GENERAL VANDENBERG:

E. K. Wright

E. K. WRIGHT
Colonel, GSC
Executive to the Director.

SAFETY COPY
ATTACHED
NOV 14 1944

~~TOP SECRET~~