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22 August 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Since preparation of our original memorandum dated 1 August 1946 on the subject of "Ghost Rockets" over Scandinavia, additional intelligence indicates that the former tentative conclusions should be somewhat modified.

1. The weight of evidence now points to Peenemunde rather than to the Gulf of Finland as the probable launching site of most of these "rockets".

a. While it was originally believed that the German installations at Peenemunde had been dismantled and shipped to the U.S.S.R., General McHarney now reports that Peenemunde is operational.

b. The U. S. Military Attache Moscow has reported that a key Swedish Air Officer stated that, on the basis of Swedish radar course-plotting, most of the launchings have been identified with the Peenemunde area.

c. An S.S.U. source indicates that a Soviet ship is reporting by radio to shore stations on the passage of these missiles from Peenemunde over the North Baltic.

d. The Leopoldville radio reported in July that the Soviets were warning shipping against passage through certain parts of the Baltic and were threatening the death penalty to seamen who might disclose the "phenomena" which they saw.

2. On the basis of the above evidence it seems probable that the U.S.S.R. is carrying out large-scale guided-missile tests around the Baltic, in which most of the missiles are launched from the Peenemunde area and traverse Sweden toward the Gulf of Bothnia.

3. It is the belief of CIG that scientific experimentation is the primary Soviet objective and that political considerations, although thoroughly appreciated, are secondary.

a. In view of transportation difficulties it would seem logical for the Soviets to center their experimental program around Peenemunde where manufacturing facilities, materials and German personnel would be close at hand, rather than to set up new installations in Russia.

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b. There have been several foreign estimates that only those "rockets" which are off course, presumably through functional failure, land in Sweden.

ROYT. S. VANDENBERG
Lieutenant General, USA

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