

U.S. Holds 4-1 Lead in Missiles

United Press International

The United States holds a better than 3-to-1 missile advantage over Russia, U.S. sources disclosed yesterday. They said there are 1480 intercontinental and submarine-launched ballistic missiles in the American arsenal, compared with 400 in the Soviet Union. Furthermore, these sources said, relatively few of the Soviet ICBMs are concealed and protected underground, as in the United States. Instead, the Soviet missiles are positioned on vulnerable, above-ground launchers.

The report, which indicated a recent modest increase in Soviet missile strength, represented one of the rare occasions when specific figures on Soviet ballistic missiles become available.

American intelligence experts, UPI was told, disagree over whether the Russians have deployed an antiballistic



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missile system as a means of destroying enemy missiles headed for Soviet targets.

Also in dispute is the probable effectiveness of the anti-missile system that Moscow admittedly has been developing.

The United States is continuing to spend large sums on development of its own system, the Nike-X, but will reach no decision for at least six months or a year on whether to produce and deploy it.