

*Post 57,257,66*  
**U.S. Retains  
Missile Lead  
Over Russia**

Russia's "modest increase" in intercontinental missiles recently has not altered the three-to-one or four-to-one ratio of superiority held by the Americans, U.S. officials said yesterday.

Washington estimates that Russia may now have some 300 nuclear-tipped ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles) compared with about 270 last year.

The U.S. arsenal now includes 904 long-range missiles and the plan calls for this to be expanded to around one thousand by mid-1967. Today there are 800 Minuteman 1 missiles, 50 Minuteman 2s and 54 of the newer and longer-range Titan 2 missiles.

However, the equation does not take into account the American and Russian capabilities for launching missiles from their nuclear-powered undersea fleets. The range of these missiles is shorter and the warheads are smaller, but the capability of off-shore bombardment extends their effectiveness.

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara said recently that 32 Polaris submarines should be in operation by the end of June, and 41 by late next year, each carrying 16 nuclear missiles. The Russians with their huge undersea fleet are thought to have 45 subs with nuclear power, with only one-third of them carrying nuclear tipped missiles.