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McNamara Is Stressing Offensive in Missiles

this case are as weighty as the military ones. This is why President Johnson most likely will make the Nike X decision himself after consulting with McNamara, Secretary of State Dean Rusk and others.

What prompted McNamara to announce Russian ABM deployment progress Thursday, according to reliable sources, was more extensive evidence gathered by U.S. intelligence.

3d Effort in 5 Years

Pentagon officials stressed that Russia does not have a lot of missiles sitting on launchers ready to down any incoming missiles. The evidence instead shows the kind of activity which precedes widespread deployment, such as clearing sites or building structures.

This is the third time in about five years Russia has shown signs of deploying an ABM system around its cities. The two earlier efforts were abandoned, presumably because of technical difficulties. But McNamara's announcement indicates he believes Russia is going all the way into deployment this time.

However, Pentagon officials caution that deployment of an ABM system—either by the United States or Russia—is no overnight process. The U.S. is still deploying ICBMs, for example. So the United States, they said, is not now faced with a fait accompli on the ABM front.

How much time the U.S. has to make its own ABM deployment decision is one of the more ponderables making the Nike X decision so difficult.

Congressional Pressure

Congress, as evidenced by its overwhelming support this year for going into pre-production of Nike X in fiscal 1967, believes now is the time to move toward deployment. The announced Russian progress will intensify the congressional demands—no matter what position McNamara takes during this fiscal 1968 budget formulation.

McNamara's decision to go ahead with production of Poseidon while still considering Nike X exemplifies his

belief that a good offense is the best defense.

Poseidon—named after the Greek god of the seas—is the newest member of the Polaris missile family. Like Polaris, it can be launched from submarines while they are underwater.

But McNamara considers Poseidon a brand new weapon rather than just an improvement over the latest Polaris, designated the A-3.

Twice the Payload

Poseidon, although only a yard longer and 18 inches fatter than the Polaris A-3, will carry twice the payload and be twice as accurate. The Defense Department said this makes Poseidon eight times as effective as the Polaris.

The Polaris A-3 has a range of about 2800 miles and the Poseidon probably will be able to go 3200 miles. With that range, Poseidon submarines could cover any target on earth.

Each Poseidon missile will have a nuclear warhead several times more powerful than the 18-kiloton bomb dropped on Hiroshima during World War II. And each submarine will carry 16 of these missiles.

The Defense Department also has developed all kinds of penetrating devices which officials insist absolutely guarantee that U.S. ICBMs like Poseidon and Minuteman can get through any defense. One such penetration device being worked on is a warhead which maneuvers as it enters the enemy's atmosphere.

McNamara Strategy

What all this adds up to, in McNamara's view, is deterrence. The fact that he has decided to spend billions on Poseidon shows how much he believes in deterring the possible enemy by displaying superior force. The idea is to convince the enemy an attack on the U.S. would be suicidal.

McNamara said at President Johnson's ranch earlier this week that Poseidon was funded in fiscal 1967 "as an insurance program." He said "it would require almost \$2 billion to develop and several additional billions to deploy."

McNamara Stressing Offensive in Missiles

By George C. Wilson
Washington Post Staff Writer

The decision to go ahead with the new ICBM called Poseidon may turn out to be Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara's own answer to Russia's deployment of an anti-ballistic-missile system.

But this does not mean he will not be persuaded or directed to move faster on the Nike X anti-ballistic-missile system (ABM) for the United States as well.

Defense Department officials said yesterday that the Nike X question was still be-

ing argued. The pressure for moving into production and then deployment of the ABM system is greater this year than ever before.

Pentagon leaders are preparing for McNamara the list of pros and cons of going into production on Nike X. But their technical arguments are only one part of the equation as President Johnson puts together his fiscal 1968 budget.

The domestic and international political factors in

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