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Antimissile System

Deployment by Russians Reported by McNamara After Meeting With LBJ

President Sees
Tougher Going for
His Great Society

Action Considered
Would Be Costly,
Speed Arms Race

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JOHNSON CITY, Tex., Nov. 10—In a spirit of resignation Lyndon B. Johnson acknowledged today that his Great Society domestic programs will face a "more difficult" course in the new 90th Congress.

In his first public reaction to Tuesday's election returns, the President said, "When the pendulum swings one way, as it did in 1964 pretty strongly, it has a tendency to swing back and somewhat balance it."

Finds Some Comfort

The President took comfort, however, in "rather good cooperation" from the Republican Party on "security matters," presumably including the Vietnamese war.

He readily admitted that the Republicans had scored important gains. "I think there is no question," he said, "but what the other Party strengthened

JOHNSON CITY, Tex., Nov. 10—Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara said here today that the Russians are deploying an antiballistic-missile system and that he discussed with President Johnson whether the United States should do likewise.

The construction of vast systems here and in the Soviet Union designed to destroy ballistic missiles aimed at them would cost billions of dollars. Many observers also believe it would greatly escalate the arms race.

In the past, McNamara has opposed the deployment of an antiballistic-missile system in this country, but about a half-billion dollars a year has been spent in the last few years developing the basis of a system.

McNamara told a news conference at the LBJ Ranch that he, the President and Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, concluded that "it is much too

its position."

Politics was almost the only subject discussed as Mr. Johnson met reporters on the lawn of his ranch near here. He first introduced Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. After discussing defense matters, they departed for Washington.

The first question to the President was about Republican gains in Tuesday's voting, which most observers believed were a blow to the Administration.

The President conceded that the losses in the House and Senate had been somewhat larger than he expected, but he argued that nearly all mid-term elections show losses by the Party in power, some large. See PRESIDENT, A19, Col. 2

early to make a decision" for deployment of an antiballistic-missile system against Communist Chinese missiles.

While he said "we have not arrived at a decision" regarding the deployment of a system against a Soviet threat, the Secretary said discussions would be continued "on this subject in the weeks to come."

Preliminary Step

A preliminary step to meet the threat, the Secretary said, will be "the development and deployment of our own intercontinental ballistic missiles."

It was not clear whether he meant that the ICBM's would be repositioned better to penetrate the Soviet defense.

Although McNamara's statement was the first official announcement of the Soviet antimissile system deployment.

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LBJ Sees Bad Time For Great Society

er than the Democrats suffered this year.

With a reference to the Democratic landslide in 1964, the President said that "over a period of years the American people have a way, I guess, of balancing things.

Largest in 3 States

The largest reductions in Democratic congressional seats occurred in three states where there was "a popular leader of the Republican Party, the President said.

In Ohio, he said, where Gov. James Rhodes had "a great ineffective leader of the Republican Party," Democrats lost five congressional seats.

The same was true in California, where Democrats lost three seats, he said, because Gov.-Elect Ronald Reagan won by "substantial majority."

The third state was Michigan, where Gov. George Romney helped elect five new Republican House members and a Senator when he got almost 60 per cent of the vote, the President said.

"So Reagan, Rhodes and

Romney account for 25 or 30 per cent of the total House seats the Democrats lost, Mr. Johnson said.

Will Be More Difficult

The President said he would have new recommendations to make to Congress in January and expressed confidence that they would be "sufficiently meritorious" to command a majority vote. But he admitted that "it will be more difficult."

Regarding the contention that Congress may not be as willing as this year to vote money for Great Society programs, Mr. Johnson said that he would not request the full appropriations authorized.

"We are very anxious to begin slowly and carefully, and form the proper kind of organization before we go the limit, as already approved by Congress," he explained.

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ment, the United States has long expected just such a move. Last April, The Washington Post reported that American officials then expected such a deployment within a year or two.

At that time, it was said the "second generation" missile known as SAM-2, now in use in North Vietnam against American planes, was deployed around Moscow Leningrad and other Soviet cities. The new "third generation" system, apparently the one to which McNamara referred, was the one American officials were talking about in April.

The Defense Secretary said today that a decision was made to recommend a proposal to produce and deploy the new Poseidon missile.

To Be Used in Subs

It will be used in Polaris submarines and will provide greater fire power than the nuclear-tipped Polaris missiles.

The Poseidon program will cost almost \$2 billion to develop and "several additional billion to deploy" the Secretary said.

"This will require a complete refitting of most of our Polaris submarines at a cost somewhat in excess of 60 per cent of the initial cost of those Polaris subs," he said.

McNamara said there was no question that both American missiles and aircraft could penetrate the Soviet antiballistic missile system.

Yet he also said that "we must assume . . . that they will deploy an effective system. I think that is the only safe assumption that we can make in planning our own strategic force."

President Is Silent

Mr. Johnson declined to make any comment on the defense issues. Gen. Wheeler reported that he told the President that the Vietnam war "continues in a very favorable

fashion."

Allied forces retain the initiative and in every action in recent months have "managed to defeat the enemy," Wheeler said.

The Nike X system under development is America's version of an antiballistic missile system. "We believe it to be a very advanced system," McNamara said.

As for a defense against a

Chinese nuclear threat, the Secretary said it would take the United States less time to deploy an antiballistic-missile system than it would take the Chinese Communists to develop nuclear weapons "that conceivably could threaten this Nation."

"Therefore, it is not timely at this time to make a decision to deploy such a system to defend against the Chinese Communist threat," the Secretary said.

McNamara and Wheeler, accompanied by Walt W. Rostow, special assistant to the President for national security affairs, flew here early today and returned to Washington immediately after the news conference.