

NY Times AUG 18 1973  
**A SOVIET SUCCESS  
REPORTED IN TEST  
OF NEW MISSILES**

**Pentagon's Chief Tells of  
a Moscow Breakthrough  
in Multiple Warheads**

**ARMS PARLEY AFFECTED**

**Schlesinger Speculates on  
'a Clear Advantage' Over  
the American Arsenal**

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 — Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger announced today that the Soviet Union has successfully flight-tested missiles with multiple warheads that can be directed to separate targets.

At a briefing for newsmen at the Pentagon, Dr. Schlesinger said that one of the intercontinental missiles, designated the SS-18, had carried at least six hydrogen warheads in the one-megaton range. One megaton is the equivalent of a million tons of TNT.

The United States began installing multiple warheads — known as "MIRVs," for "multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles" — in its Minuteman II missiles in April, 1970, and has since spread the network.

**Nixon-Brezhnev Pledge**

On June 21 in Washington, President Nixon and Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist party leader, pledged that "qualitative" limitations on strategic weapons, including missiles with multiple warheads, would be their joint goal in a second strategic weapons agreement to be reached by the end of 1974. The first agreement on limitation of strategic arms, reached in 1971, dealt with quantitative limits.

A United States official said that the Soviet success had virtually erased American hopes for a two-way moratorium on future testing of such missiles in the framework of a new agreement on limitation of strategic arms. Earlier, the United States had planned to propose such a moratorium. Now, the official said, the stress would have to be on controlling MIRV deployment and verification

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RUSSIAN MISSILE  
CALLED SUCCESS

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procedures, which he said would be "difficult."

Today, Dr. Schlesinger said that the Soviet success meant that it was imperative for the United States to prevent the Russians from gaining a clear advantage by combining their quantity lead with qualitative equality.

Information on the SS-18 and its successful test on a range ending on the Kamchatka Peninsula in northeastern Siberia apparently reached the Pentagon from intelligence sources yesterday.

Dr. Schlesinger, characterizing as "very adventuresome" a series of missile tests that started in May, listed four new-generation Soviet missiles that he said could lead the Soviet Union to "a clear advantage in counterforce capability" over the United States.

The four missiles are designated by United States defense authorities as the following:

¶The SS-16, a missile propelled by solid fuel, with a carrying capacity about that of the United States Minuteman — some 30 tons — and possibly intended as a mobile weapon.

¶The SS-17, also about Minuteman-size, but liquid-fueled and a possible successor to the standard SS-11.

¶The SS-18, largest of all, liquid-fueled and planned as the successor to the SS-9.

¶The SS-19, a hitherto undisclosed liquid-fueled missile in the Minuteman range. The Minuteman carries three warheads, each with an explosive content of about 200,000 tons of TNT.

**Sure of 2 Tests**

Dr. Schlesinger said that the Defense Department was certain that the Soviet Union had tested its multiple-warhead capability on the SS-17 and SS-18 rocket vehicles, and added, that there was "flimsy evidence" of such testing on the other two.

The Pentagon, he said, had become persuaded that the Soviet Union intended to provide all its intercontinental missiles with multiple, separately-targetable warheads.

Judging from past experiences, he said, the new missiles could be ready for production and deployment by 1975. By the end of the decade, he said, the Soviet Union could have independently targetable

warheads equal in numbers to those of the United States.

Noting that the Soviet Union had already achieved superiority over American missile-capability in "throw weight" — bigger missiles through bigger explosive charges — Dr. Schlesinger remarked: "I think the Soviets are seeking a strategic advantage."

**Not a Surprise, He Says**

He said it was not astonishing that the Russians should eventually achieve and deploy multiple-warhead capability, "whether in several years or half a dozen years."

"One may have been surprised that they have all these missiles," he added. "It is the breadth of development, not the race, that is surprising."

Dr. Schlesinger said that the Soviet achievement had great significance for the current second round of talks on limitation of strategic arms between the Soviet Union and the United States "because our ability to monitor is rapidly, very rapidly deteriorating."

"Once they come through the flight test the ability to verify will be substantially undermined," he explained, adding that in the first round of talks "we repeatedly insisted on the ability to verify." The first strategic arms agreement of 1972 imposed an interim limitation on the quantities of nuclear missiles each side could build but permitted qualitative improvements.

Now, the Defense Secretary

said, the Soviet Union is "closing the technological gaps through MIRV guidance and warheads."

"The United States is not in a position to tolerate Soviet superiority," he went on. "We must have some equality."

The Soviet position, as outlined recently by Russian officials here, is that the second round of arms talks would succeed only if the Soviet Union had a demonstrated MIRV capacity. The Soviet argument was, basically: "What you have we must get and where you are we must be," in world strategic terms.

Dr. Schlesinger countered this view with the argument that the Soviet Union was now moving toward attaining an advantage by "marrying" its quantitative superiority to qualitative equality. He added that phase two of the arms talks "must prevent imbalance," though he cautioned: "The Soviets are not particularly interested in limitations."

"The minimal point one can make is that the Soviets are unwilling not to demonstrate technology that the United States has demonstrated," he said. "Imagery is important."

Asked whether the Soviet missile success would lead him to press harder for Congressional acceptance of the Defense Department's accelerated Trident missile submarine program, Mr. Schlesinger replied: "No. I thought we were making a hard pitch. There is no intent on my part to make a harder pitch."