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SOVIET STRATEGIC DEFENSE

-- The Soviet Union has an extensive strategic defense program, including at least two decades of work on advanced technologies with potential applications to ballistic missile defense.

-- Soviet work in some areas, for example, ground-based lasers for ballistic missile defense purposes, could reach prototype stage by the late 1980s.

-- The information presented leads one to the clear conclusion that the United States is not expanding military competition into new areas and that Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) research is a prudent course to take. SDI research is an excellent insurance policy to protect US and allied security.

-- The Administration's information on Soviet strategic defense programs does a very good job of laying out the evidence of an extremely active Soviet program in this area which has received too little attention in public discussion of the US SDI research program.

-- This work could enable the Soviets to deploy ballistic missile defense weapons using advanced technologies in space toward the end of the century, and possibly advanced ground-based systems even sooner.

-- The Soviets have been engaged in far more extensive strategic defense activities than has the United States.

-- Unlike our own SDI program, the Soviets are doing more than research, for example the Moscow anti-ballistic missile, system (which they are now upgrading), their in-depth air defense system and their construction of the Krasnoyarsk radar, which violates the ABM Treaty.

-- The Soviets have also been engaged for over two decades in research on advanced technologies with ballistic missile defense applications, including directed energy, radio frequency and kinetic energy weapons.

-- The SDI research is a prudent and necessary response to the extensive Soviet programs in the field. If this research bears fruit, its overriding importance lies in the promise it offers of a better, more stable deterrent in the future, based increasingly on non-nuclear defenses.