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USSR: THE SOVIETS APPARENTLY ENCOUNTERED PROBLEMS DURING THE LAST TEST LAUNCH FROM A SUBMARINE OF THEIR NEW LONG-RANGE NAVAL MISSILE--THE SS-NX-B.

THREE SUCCESSFUL TESTS OF THE MISSILE HAD BEEN MADE FROM AN H-III CLASS SUBMARINE THIS YEAR. ON 27 MAY, 50X1 PREPARATIONS WERE UNDER WAY FOR ANOTHER SS-NX-B LAUNCH FROM THE H-III IN THE BARENTS SEA. NO LAUNCH WAS DETECTED, HOWEVER, AND TWO MONTHS HAVE GONE BY WITHOUT ANOTHER FIRING.

RECENT SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHY SHOWS THAT THE H-III SUBMARINE USED IN TESTING THE SS-NX-B IS BACK AT THE SEVERODVINSK SHIPYARD 50X1

50X1 IN THE BARENTS AND WHITE SEAS SINCE LAST DECEMBER. THE H-III--THE ONLY SUBMARINE CONFIGURED TO HANDLE THE SS-NX-B--COULD BE AT SEVERODVINSK FOR REPAIRS. 50X1

50X1 THE SIGHTING OF AN EXPLOSION AND SMOKE BY A FOREIGN SHIP ON 27 MAY INDICATE AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO LAUNCH THE SS-NX-B. 50X1

50X1 THE RETURN OF THE H-III TO A SHIPYARD RATHER THAN THE OPERATIONAL BASE AT OLENYA BAY, HOWEVER, SUGGEST THAT THE LAUNCH ATTEMPT FAILED.

THE SOVIETS EXPERIENCED PROBLEMS DURING THE EARLY TESTING OF THE SS-NX-B WITH FAILURES 50X1

50X1 THESE PROBLEMS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED LAST FALL, AND THERE WERE EIGHT CONSECUTIVE SUCCESSFUL TESTS THROUGH APRIL. IF THE LAUNCH ATTEMPT FAILED ON 27 MAY, IT WOULD INDICATE NEW DIFFICULTIES THAT MIGHT DELAY THE SS-NX-B FROM BECOMING OPERATIONAL.

THE SS-NX-B IS EXPECTED TO BE DEPLOYED ON A VARIANT OF THE Y-CLASS BEING BUILT AT SEVERODVINSK. THIS SUBMARINE IS BEING BUILT TO CARRY 12 SS-NX-B MISSILES AND WILL PROBABLY BE READY FOR INITIAL SEA TRIALS THIS FALL AND POSSIBLY FOR MISSILE FIRINGS BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. CIA Statute
CIA Statute

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4