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Mandatory Review
Class of [redacted] 14-26 ISCAP Appeal
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50X1 USSR: 50X1
THE FIRST GOOD EVIDENCE OF SOVIET USE
OF AN AIRBORNE STRATEGIC COMMAND POST.

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[redacted]

USE OF AN AIRCRAFT TO HOUSE AN ALTERNATE COM-
MAND AUTHORITY ENHANCES THE SURVIVABILITY OF A COM-
MAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM UNDER NUCLEAR ATTACK. PRE-
VIOUSLY, THE SOVIETS HAVE DEPENDED ON REDUNDANCY IN
AND HARDENING OF GROUND-BASED FACILITIES FOR THIS
PURPOSE, BUT RELIANCE SOLELY ON THIS APPROACH IS
UNSATISFACTORY BECAUSE OF THE VULNERABILITY OF ANY
SITE WHICH CAN BE TARGETED FOR A NUCLEAR STRIKE.

IT IS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER THE AIRBORNE SYSTEM
IS NOW OPERATIONAL OR HOW MANY AIRCRAFT THE SOVIETS
MAY CHOOSE TO DEPLOY. WHEN OPERATIONAL, HOWEVER,
EMPLOYMENT OF AN AIRBORNE COMMAND POST ON A CONTINU-
OUS BASIS WOULD SERVE TO HEIGHTEN THE CONFIDENCE OF
THE SOVIETS BOTH IN THEIR ABILITY TO RESPOND IN THE
FACE OF AN UNEXPECTED NUCLEAR ATTACK AND IN THE
CREDIBILITY OF THEIR DETERRENT. CIA Statute

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Declassified Under Authority of the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel,
E.O. 13526, sec. 5.3(b)(3)
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