



SUMMARY OF PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS FOR F. Y. 1955

1. The USSR has the ability to strike any part of the U. S. with air-delivered atomic bombs, supplemented by high explosives, biological and chemical weapons, the use of sabotage, and psychological warfare.

2. The USSR has the ability to make atomic weapons of any desired yield from a few thousand to hundreds of thousands of tons of TNT equivalent. It is assumed that any city struck will be substantially destroyed by one or more bombs of appropriate yield.

3. Concentrations of people and industry would be among the major targets of attack. Therefore, ECDA has designated a total of 193 areas as likely targets, of which 70 have been designated as critical target areas for civil defense purposes.* The most probable aiming points are the 92 principal cities of the critical target areas.

4. It is assumed that one hour's warning can be given to the public in F. Y. 1955, although it is recognized that there will always be a possibility of complete surprise.

5. It is assumed that, on the basis of one hour's warning, the principal cities of the critical target areas will be able to carry out a partial dispersal of the population from the areas of greatest concentration.

6. It is assumed that, on the basis of one bomb of appropriate size on each of the 92 principal cities of the critical target areas, casualties in a daytime attack with one hour's warning and a dispersal plan 80% effective would be as follows: killed, 8,000,000; injured, 5,500,000; total casualties, 13,500,000.

* Target areas are the Standard Metropolitan Areas of the U. S., and all capitals of States, Territories and Possessions whether or not such capitals are in Standard Metropolitan Areas. Target areas having 40,000 or more manufacturing employees, plus the District of Columbia area, are designated critical target areas.

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