

TOP SECRET
ATOMIC

THE BOMBER FORCE AND SKYBOLT

The Plan

The planned strength of the V-bomber front line is 114 aircraft, of which 104 will be Mark 2 aircraft (32 Victor 2s and 72 Vulcan 2s).

2. It has been calculated that after taking into account the serviceability factor and probable losses in the event of operations, this force can threaten with destruction approximately 50% of 40 major Russian cities using free-falling bombs, and this has been provisionally accepted as the measure of a worthwhile British controlled contribution to the Western deterrent. The Air Ministry has argued that nothing very much less would be calculated to impress either the Americans or the Russians. The report of the Future Policy Committee under Sir Norman Brook has recognised that even if in future the United Kingdom deterrent were to be regarded as a contribution to the overall Western deterrent, rather than an independent threat, it might well be that a force of this order would still be required in order to achieve our political and military objectives. *(This interpretation is not wholly wrong, but it is selective. ASO. 24/v)*

3. Our bombers must be equipped successively with BLUE STEEL and SKYBOLT because using free-falling bombs they will become progressively more vulnerable to the Russian air defence system to a point at which their effectiveness as a deterrent would disappear. SKYBOLT will be required from about 1965 onwards.

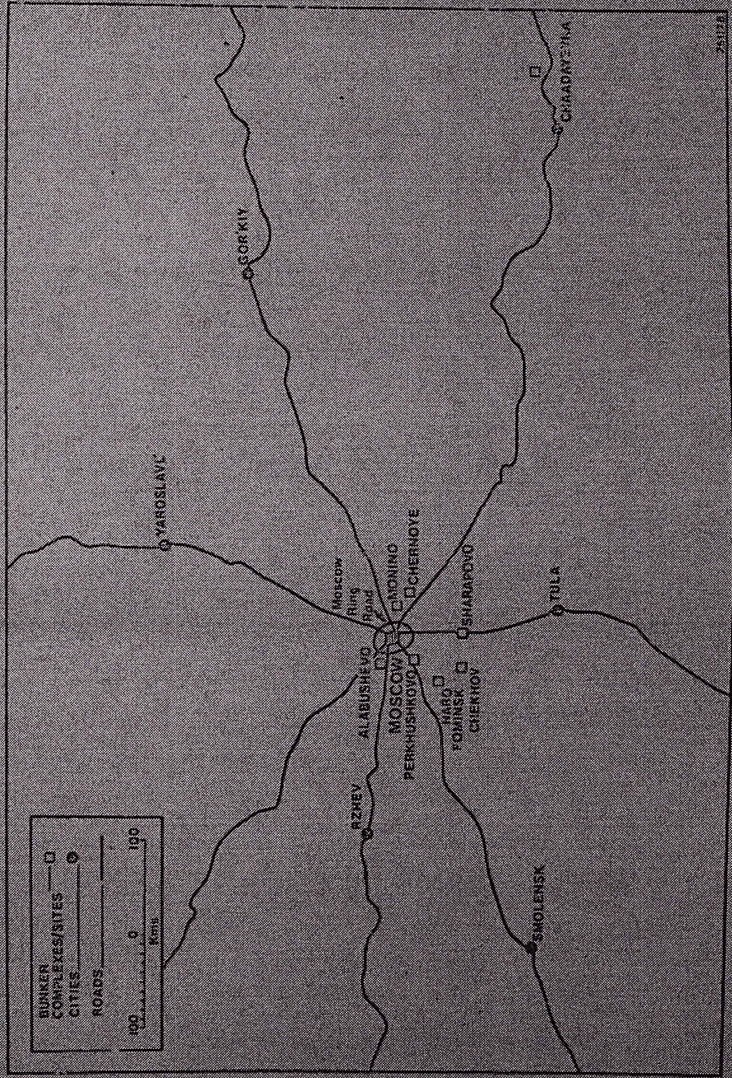
(by the Air Ministry)
4. It is planned in due course to replace the V-bombers with V.C.10s as launching platforms for SKYBOLT. Their endurance will be greater (thereby facilitating the mounting

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SECRET APPENDIX TO ANNEX A
UK EYES A

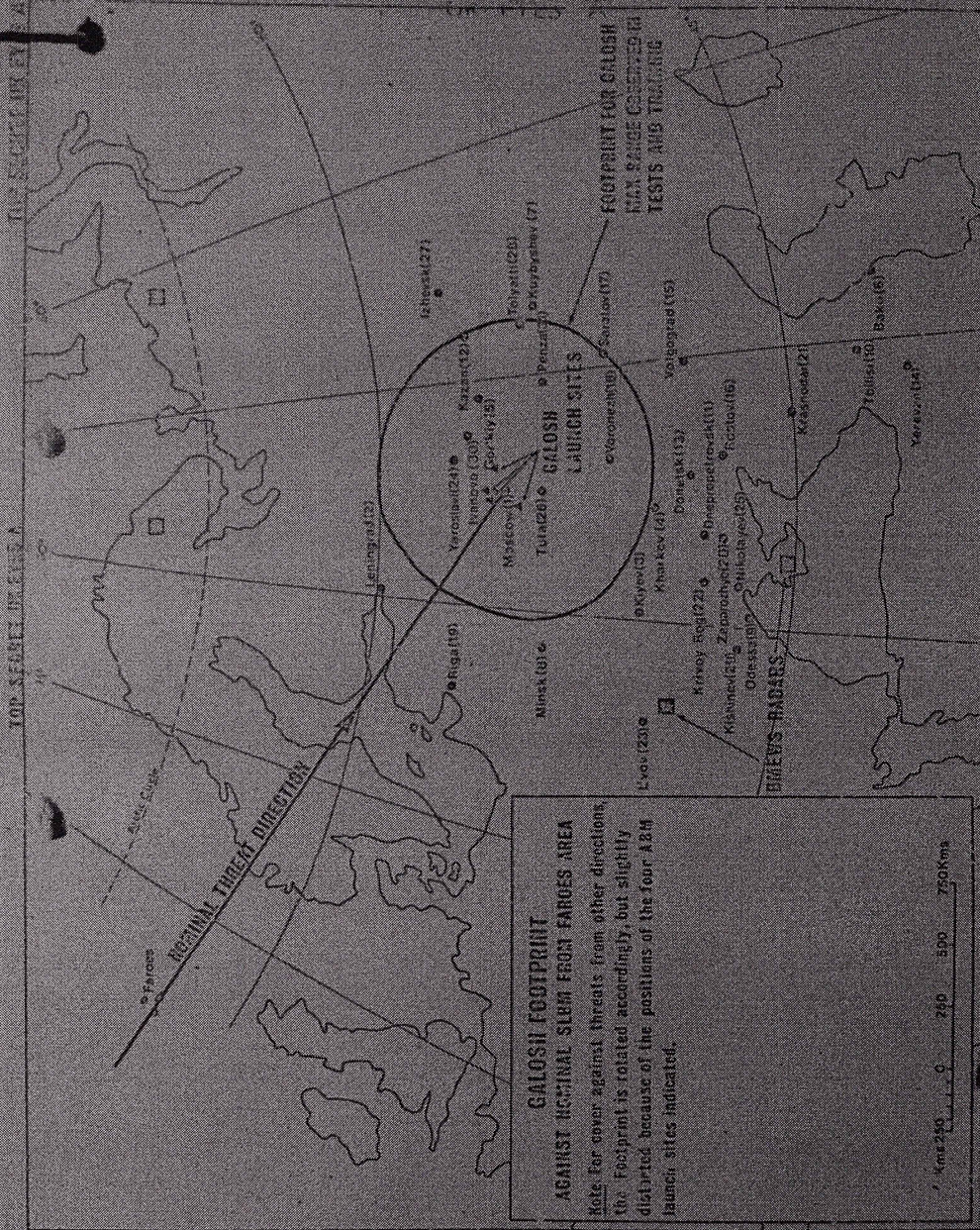
SECRET UK EYES A
NATIONAL LEVEL COMMAND AND CONTROL BUNKER COMPLEXES/SITES



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GALOSH FOOTPRINT AGAINST NORMAL SLRM FROM FARSES AREA
 Note for cover against threats from other directions, the Footprint is rotated accordingly, but slightly distorted because of the positions of the four ABM launch sites indicated.

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