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THE CUTTING EDGE

Chuck Hansen, Editor

Number 2, June 1997

This is the second issue of the *Cutting Edge*, a periodic newsletter and "intelligence report" for current and prospective customers of *The Swords of Armageddon*. Our intention is to keep you advised of recent and little-known publications, document collections, research sources, and videotapes concerning Cold War topics, primarily nuclear weapons and weapons testing-related subjects.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

As we mentioned in Issue Number 1, a good source for several of the following books is an on-line Internet bookstore named Amazon.com at <http://www.amazon.com>. Do not -- repeat, *do not* -- contact Chukelea Publications for copies of items mentioned in this newsletter. We sell only *The Swords of Armageddon*.

Arkin, William M. and Robert S. Norris. 1997. ***The Internet and the Bomb: A Research Guide to Policy and Information about Nuclear Weapons***. Natural Resources Defense Council, Washington, D.C. 159 p. Paper. Available at (202) 289-6868 or on-line at <http://www.nrdc.org/nrdcpro/nuclear>.

This is the first comprehensive directory of governmental, non-governmental, and industry Internet sources, indexed by both subject and source, covering more than 500 homepages. Updates will be provided periodically at the NRDC Web site.

The Defense Special Weapons Agency (formerly the Defense Nuclear Agency) has published a 32-page, 50-year history entitled ***Defense Special Weapons Agency, 1947-1997: The First 50 Years of National Service***. It's free from the DSWA Public Affairs Office at Room 113, Defense Special Weapons Agency, 6801 Telegraph Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22310-3398, (703) 325-7095.

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The Department of Energy has recently published ***Linking Legacies: Connecting the Cold War Nuclear Weapons Production Processes to Their Environmental Consequences***, a 230-page illustrated and diagrammed description of the production of weapons materials and the resultant contamination problems and cleanup efforts now underway around the United States. Available from the USDOE Office of Environmental Management, Office of Strategic Planning and Analysis (EM-24), 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20585, (800) 736-3282.

Fialka, John J. 1997. ***War by Other Means: Economic Espionage in America***. W. W. Norton & Co., Inc., New York. ISBN 0-393-04014-3. 242 p.

Recent news stories have detailed how supercomputers from IBM and Silicon Graphics ended up at both Russian and Chinese nuclear weapons research centers. Fialka, a noted *Wall Street Journal* reporter, shows how incidents like these are merely a small part of an international effort to obtain both U.S. military and business secrets and technology in the aftermath of the Cold War.

Harford, James. 1997. ***Korolev: How One Man Masterminded the Soviet Drive to Beat America to the Moon***. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. 392 p. ISBN 0-471-14853-9.

If you remember the shadowy and rather sinister figure of the Soviet "Chief Designer" in the 1983 Philip Kaufman film of Tom Wolfe's *The Right Stuff*, you'll want to read this biography of the real "Chief Designer," Sergei Pavlovich Korolev, the main architect of postwar Soviet ICBMs and space exploration vehicles. Korolev, who died prematurely at age 59 in 1966 during surgery for cancer, rose from imprisonment in the notorious *gulag* to put the Soviet Union at the forefront of space exploration during the early 1960s. This biography is based largely on interviews with Soviet scientists and engineers, and newly-declassified Russian documents. The author is the Executive Director Emeritus of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and was a Verville Fellow in the Department of Space History at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

Johnson, Leland and Daniel Schaffer. 1994. ***Oak Ridge National Laboratory: The First Fifty Years***. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee. 270 p. ISBN 0-87049-853-3 (cloth) and 0-87049-854-1 (paper).

This is a good general introductory and moderately technical history of the operation and projects at Oak Ridge between 1944 and 1994. It does not contain much information about Oak Ridge's wartime and postwar weapons materials production, which have been discussed in greater detail in Vols. II and III of the ***Nuclear Weapons Databook*** series.

Lashmar, Paul. 1996. ***Spy Flights of the Cold War***. Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, Maryland. 244 p. ISBN 1-55750-837-2.

Based on the author's TV documentary *Spies in the Sky* and a series of articles for English aviation journals such as *Aeroplane Monthly*, this book has achieved some notoriety for its contention that the U.S. Air Force's Strategic Air Command sought to start World War II during the 1950s by provocative border-skirting and overflights of the Soviet Union by both reconnaissance and nuclear-armed bombers. That point aside, this book is the best compilation to date of Western aircraft flights over and into the Soviet Union between 1946 and 1983. An appendix lists 52 aircraft downed during that period, many of whose crews were never found.

McDonald, Robert A. (ed.) 1997. ***Corona Between the Sun and the Earth: The First NRO Reconnaissance Eye in Space***. American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Bethesda, Maryland. (301) 439-0290. 440 p. ISBN 1-57083-041-x.

This is a comprehensive and technical inside look at the politics, technology, institutional organization, and dynamics of the first U.S. reconnaissance satellite program, illustrated with many newly-declassified black-and-white and color images. Appendices include a glossary, operational and camera data for the CORONA, ARGON, and LANYARD satellites, and the texts of several documents. To date, this is the most comprehensive CORONA history yet printed, and it is well worth its cost.

Wilcox, Robert K. 1995. ***Japan's Secret War: Japan's Race Against Time to Build Its Own Atomic Bomb***. Marlowe and Company, New York. ISBN 1-56924-815-X. 268 p. Paper.

While there have been a number of new titles recently concerning both the postwar Soviet and wartime German atomic bomb projects, this book is one of an even smaller number which describes the little-known wartime Japanese nuclear weapons program, which was mentioned in passing in Richard Rhodes' ***The Making of the Atomic Bomb*** (Simon & Schuster, New York, 1986). The Wilcox book addresses in as much detail as has been declassified (many wartime Japanese documents were destroyed after the war) the controversial question of just how much progress Japan had made by 1945.

In September 1996, the Central Intelligence Agency issued an updated brochure entitled ***Declassified National Intelligence Estimates on the Soviet Union and International Communism, 1946-1984***. This brochure supersedes an earlier (1995) edition. The CIA is continuing to review and declassify NIE documents within the 1946-1984 period, so there will probably future updates to this brochure. The current edition is available from the Center for the Study of Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency,

Washington, D.C. 20505. The Center for the Study of Intelligence Web page is at <http://www.odci.gov/csi>.

The Russians are learning quickly to be good capitalists, as evidenced recently by the flap over the Romanov dynasty artifacts tour, when the Russians managed, by threatening to take the show back home, to raise their percentage of the tour revenue from 50% to 65%. Further evidence of Russian capitalism is shown by the ongoing publication of a series of volumes entitled **Russia's Arms Catalog**, a comprehensive encyclopedic compilation of current weapons specifications. Four volumes -- Army weapons, Air Force weapons, Navy weapons, and precision-guided weapons and ammunition -- have been published to date; the final three volumes -- strategic missile forces, air defense forces, and military space forces -- will be available by the end of 1997. Volume VII includes Soviet nuclear weapons data and color photos of the exhibits in the nuclear weapons museum at Arzamas-16. Each volume is available for \$495, or \$2,495 for all seven. Contact Zigzag Venture Group, Olympic Tower East, 645 5th Avenue, 7th. Fl., New York, NY 10022, (212) 725-6700.

RECENT ARTICLES OF INTEREST

The March 1997 issue of **Physics Today** contains on pp. 63-65 an article entitled "Without Explosions to Test the Aging Nuclear Arsenal, Bomb Builders Turn to Inertial Fusion and Supercomputers." This feature describes plans by the Department of Defense and the U.S. nuclear weapons labs to accomplish the post-Cold War nuclear weapons stockpile stewardship program by means other than full-scale testing. (As this issue of *The Cutting Edge* goes to press, two key elements of this program -- the National Ignition Facility in Livermore, California and the no-yield subcritical underground explosive tests in Nevada -- are being challenged in court.)

The **B61-11 earth-penetrating bomb** is getting a lot of press recently, mainly because of controversy over whether it is in fact a new weapon or merely a modification of an existing bomb. Recent articles of interest include "Test Drops of B61-11 Penetrator Weapon Continue" in *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, June 9, 1997, pp. 75-76; "U.S. Refits Nuclear Bomb to Destroy Enemy Bunkers" in *The New York Times*, May 31, 1997; and "New Bomb, No Mission" in *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, May/June 1997, pp. 28-32; "U.S. Nuclear Gravity Bomb," *Los Angeles Times*, April 14, 1997; "The Birth of a New Bomb," *The Washington Post*, June 1, 1997; and "A Legitimate U.S. Weapon," *The Washington Post*, June 7, 1997.

The Spring 1997 issue of **Military History Quarterly** reportedly contains an article by noted Cold War historian R. Cargill Hall on U.S. military overflights of the Soviet Union. Back issues of *MHQ* are available from P. O. Box 2789, Clifton, NJ 07015-9612;

the Spring 1997 issue is Vol. 9 No. 3. Hall works for the U.S. Air Force History Support Office.

Two recent articles provide sharply conflicting characterizations of the activities of the U.S. Air Force's Strategic Air Command under the stewardship of General Curtis LeMay. The first, entitled "How the B-36 'Peacemaker' Earned Its Name," by Major John Running Deer Eleazer, appears in the Spring 1997 issue of **Friends Journal**, a quarterly publication of the Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc. (P. O. Box 1903, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-1903). This article details a highly-provocative Korean War era flight of 15 B-36s from Eielson AFB in Alaska right up to the edge of Soviet airspace over the Kamchatka Peninsula, complete with dummy nuclear bomb drops and aerial gun firing.

The second article, "Back to the Stone Age: The Attack on Curtis E. LeMay," is a review by Major Mark J. Conversino of Richard Rhodes' **Dark Sun: The Making of the Hydrogen Bomb** (Simon & Schuster, New York, 1995); the review appears in the Spring 1997 issue of **Strategic Review**, a publication of the U.S. Strategic Institute (67 Bay State Road, Box 15618, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215, (617) 353-8700). In the review -- which is based upon a paper Conversino presented at a SAC 50-year anniversary symposium in Omaha, Nebraska in May 1996 -- Conversino argues that Rhodes, among others, deliberately mischaracterizes LeMay's intentions for a pre-emptive war with the Soviet Union during the 1950s.

RECENT VIDEOS OF INTEREST

As one of her last stabs at openness before leaving Washington, former Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary released last January a number of **formerly classified or limited U.S. Atomic Energy Commission films of U.S. nuclear testing between 1945 and 1954**. A total of 14 of these films -- on VHS videotape -- ranging in length from 12 minutes to just over an hour are available for \$10 each from the Coordination and Information Center at Bechtel Nevada, (702) 295-0748; accession numbers run between 0800000 and 0800014. Included among the videos is the longest publicly-released version of *Operation IVY* and no fewer than five films about Operation SANDSTONE. The photographic quality of these videos is only average; they have been copied from masters and the results are somewhat less than perfect. Better copies of a few of these films are available from the National Archives, but at prices eight to ten times what Bechtel is asking.

The new video, **Trinity & Beyond: The Atomic Bomb Movie**, is now also available from Goldhill Home Video at (800) 250-8760.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS & DOCUMENT COLLECTIONS

Some updates on forthcoming publications mentioned in issue number 1 of *The Cutting Edge*: Stan Norris of the Natural

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Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has agreed to finish writing the late Stan Goldberg's biography of General Leslie Groves, tentatively entitled **Fighting to Build the Bomb: The Private Wars of Leslie Groves** (Steerforth Press). No publication date scheduled.

Another new CORONA spy satellite history, **Eye in the Sky: Spy Satellites and American Intelligence-Gathering during the Cold War** by Messrs. Day, et. al., will not be published by the Smithsonian Institution Press until at least February 1998. A new tentative title for this book is **Eye in the Sky: The CORONA Reconnaissance Satellite Program**. The April 1997 issue of **Spaceflight** magazine contains an article by Dwayne Allen Day on the KH-6 LANYARD reconnaissance satellite.

The forthcoming Sandia National Laboratories' general history originally scheduled for publication last January is now slated for release in mid to late June 1997. About 5,000 copies will be printed, and sold for around \$17 or \$18 first to Sandia employees and then to the general public. Contact Myra O'Canna, 1-505-844-6315, for ordering information and a brochure about the Sandia historical program. The new Sandia history will be sold through the National Atomic Museum Store, P. O. Box 5800 MS 1490, Albuquerque, NM 87185-1490.

The B-36 history by Meyers Jacobsen, et. al. entitled **B-36, The Big Stick: The Story of the U.S. Air Force's First Intercontinental Bomber** (Schiffer Publishing, Ltd., Atglen, Pennsylvania) will probably not be published before the spring of 1998, and possibly not until the fall of 1998.

A new title about the development of British nuclear weaponry is **Britain's Strategic Deterrence: From Before the V-Bomber to Beyond Trident** by Robert H. Paterson. Frank Cass & Co. ISBN 0-714642-975. Paperbound. Due in June 1997. No further information yet available.

The third volume of the Navy's China Lake history series, **Magnificent Mavericks**, is still undergoing prepublication declassification review and does not yet have a scheduled publication date. Short excerpts from this history have appeared in the most recent two issues of the China Lake Museum Foundation newsletter, *The China Laker*. The museum foundation address is P. O. Box 217, Ridgecrest, CA 93556-0217.

The DOE will not be issuing an updated RDD volume -- **Drawing Back the Curtain of Secrecy, Restricted Data Declassification Decisions, 1946 to the Present** -- until January 1998. DOE is awaiting decisions and actions by the Fundamental Classification Policy Review committee later this year (the committee has yet to issue its final report and recommendations). When released, the new volume will be numbered RDD-4.

A new Cold War history is ***Living with Peril: Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Nuclear Weapons*** by Andreas Wenger (Rowman & Littlefield, ISBN 0-847685-152) originally due in May 1997. No further information yet available.

A new Los Alamos book, ***The Secret Mesa: Los Alamos National Laboratory and Its Place in the American Imagination*** by Jo Ann Shroyer (John Wiley & Sons, New York, ISBN 0-471040-630) is due in November 1997. No further information yet available.

A couple of forthcoming titles from the University of North Carolina Press look interesting, but no details are yet available. The first is ***Prompt and Utter Destruction: Truman and the Use of Atomic Bombs***, by J. Samuel Walker, due in September 1997, and the second is ***The Other Missiles of October: Eisenhower, Kennedy, and the JUPITERS, 1957-1963*** by Philip Nash, due in October 1997. The UNC Press can be reached at (800) 848-6224.

Now scheduled for publication in January 1998 is ***Atomic Audit: The Costs and Consequences of U.S. Nuclear Weapons Since 1940*** by Stephen I. Schwartz (ed.). The U.S. Nuclear Weapons Cost Study Project, Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

Atomic Audit traces the history of U.S. nuclear weapons and unearths the comprehensive costs of their infrastructure from design and fabrication facilities, to command, control, and communications networks, to the eventual dismantlement of weapons systems and the management of decades of accumulated toxic and radioactive wastes. The consequences of these expenditures -- from the deterrence of major war, to the risk of accidental nuclear war, to the environmental and economic impacts of mass production of nuclear weapons -- are carefully assessed.

Contributing authors include Bruce G. Blair, The Brookings Institution; Thomas S. Blanton and William Burr, the National Security Archive; Steven M. Kosiak, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments; Arjun Makhijani, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research; Robert S. Norris, Natural Resources Defense Council; Kevin O'Neill, Institute for Science and International Security; John Pike, Federation of American Scientists; and William J. Weida, The Colorado College. Stephen I. Schwartz is a guest scholar with the Foreign Policy Studies program at the Brookings Institution and director of the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Cost Study Project.

RESEARCH SERVICES

MILSITE RECON (Military Site Reclamation and Conversion) is a military history consulting firm specializing in the documentation of post-World War II military installations across the U.S., with an emphasis on historic preservation, cultural

resources management, and environmental assessment and remediation.

Michael S. Binder, Principal Researcher with MILSITE RECON, has more than 14 years of Cold War historical research experience, with recognized expertise in:

- the description of historical operations at active and abandoned installations
- the technology of Cold War weapons systems
- the adaptive reuse of specialized military facilities
- the unique environmental problems at active military installations and Formerly Used Defense Sites.

MILSITE RECON clients fall into two groups: federal agencies, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Forest Service; and consulting engineering, architectural, and archaeological firms, which are under contract to the Department of Energy and the Departments of the Air Force and Navy.

Mr. Binder is technically trained and field oriented, with degrees in chemistry and geology, and previous work experience as an analytical chemist and geologist. He is a frequent speaker on military history -- and an occasional tour guide -- at various history conferences.

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Michael has been a good and valuable friend of *The Swords of Armageddon* and its staff for many years, and I recommend his services highly and unconditionally.

HOW TO PURCHASE *THE SWORDS OF ARMAGEDDON*

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