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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
POLICY

FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

AUG 23 2004

FROM: Mira R. Ricardel, ASD (ISP) (Acting) *John Reed for* AUG 19 2004

SUBJECT: Minister Ivanov Comments on U.S. Missile Defense Capabilities

- Thought you might like to see Defense Minister Ivanov's comments stating that the beginning of U.S. missile defense deployments do not threaten Russia's security (see attached).

Attachments: As stated



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Source-Date: 08/18/2004

Russian Defense Minister Says New US Missile Silos Pose No Threat

CEP20040818000140 Moscow Interfax in Russian 1112 GMT 18 Aug 04

[FBIS Translated Text]

Mozdok, 18 August: Russian Defense Minister Sergey Ivanov sees no threat to Russia's security from the opening of the first missile silos for the USA's new air defense system. "I personally do not see any threat to Russia's security from the opening in the USA of the first missile silos for the air defense system," Ivanov told journalists in Mozdok on Wednesday [18 August].

Ivanov said that in response to the construction of the US air defense system, Russia would implement plans to develop the Strategic Missile Troops and the Space Troops.

"As far as US plans for construction of an air defense system are concerned, we also have our own plans to develop strategic nuclear and space forces. I assure you that those plans which we have will be unswervingly implemented and adhered to," the minister said.

Ivanov said the opening of the first missile silos had been no surprise to him.

"Representatives of the previous Democrat administration in the USA informed me personally back in 2000 that the USA was planning to build 20 missile silos in Alaska. This was not a surprise for us," Ivanov said.

[Description of Source: Moscow Interfax in Russian -- non-government information agency known for its aggressive reporting, extensive economic coverage, and good coverage of Russia's regions]

