

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET

INFORMATION

October 5, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
FROM: WILLIAM E. ODOM
SUBJECT: Causes of False Warning of SLBM Launch (TS)

The causes of the radar at Mt. Hebo, Oregon, recording an SLBM launch are still undetermined. There is no evidence of system malfunction. A decaying Soviet space object could have been the basis for the sighting, but further investigation has made that look less probable. Furthermore, the "software" in the system should distinguish between decaying objects and SLBM. (TS)

If additional information on causes becomes available, I shall inform you, but it looks like we may remain indefinitely uncertain of the reasons for the radar track. (TS)

This radar, known as the "Fuzzy-7", is an old system which will give way to the newer PAVE PAWS as it is constructed. (C)

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Review on October 9, 1999

Classified and Extended by Z. Brzezinski

Reason for Extension: NSC 1/13(e)