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The ABM and the Changed Strategic Military Balance: U.S.A. vs. U.S.S.R.

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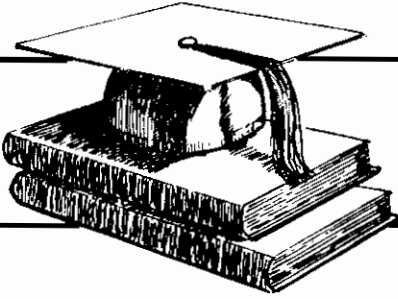
American Security Council

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PROFESSIONAL READING

American Security Council. National Strategy Committee. *The ABM and the Changed Strategic Military Balance: U.S.A. vs. U.S.S.R.* Washington: 1969. 60p.

In this brief study prepared at the request of the American Security Council in May 1969, 32 members of a special subcommittee attempt to address the changing strategic military balance between the United States and Soviet Russia. Their approach is centered around the current controversy over the need for an antiballistic missile (ABM) defense system. Of interest to naval officers will be the fact that the report includes the views of prominent military and naval officers whose names would tend to assure the reader of the objectivity of the report. In examining the need for an ABM defense, the subcommittee members discuss in concise terms the aspects of United States and Soviet strategic military balance, strategic defense, and the equally controversial issue of civil defense. For a report of its brief size, there are more facts, figures, and charts of diagrams than are to be found in the other two leading works on the ABM issue, *ABM; an Evaluation of the Decision to Deploy an Antiballistic Missile System* (New York: New American Library, 1969) and *Anti-Ballistic Missile: Yes or No?* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1968). For a full comprehension of the ABM contro-

versy, the reader should consult all three works. However, the item under review presents as complete an overview as can be found at this writing. The reviewer researched the complete spectra of ABM literature for a thesis topic and has found no other work (including the extensive Congressional reports) as comprehensive and lucid as *The ABM and the Changed Strategic Military Balance: U.S.A. vs. U.S.S.R.* This booklet builds a strong case for an ABM defense. *ABM; an Evaluation of the Decision to Deploy an Antiballistic Missile System* opposes the ABM. The other work of the trilogy, *Anti-Ballistic Missile: Yes or No?* provides the balance between the two extremes.

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Barnet, Richard J. *The Economy of Death*. New York: Atheneum, 1969. 201p.

As an authority on national security and arms control matters and as a founder of the Institute for Political Studies (in Washington), Mr. Barnet challenges the validity of the rationale used by the Department of Defense to support and continue the military-industrial complex—hence the title *The Economy of Death*. The author contends that for more than a quarter of a century, American citizens have permitted their Government to foster an