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Chief, Industrial Division, ORR

3 May 1957

Acting Chief, Aircraft Branch, D/I

1957 Soviet May Day Air Demonstration

1. The 1957 May Day air demonstration over Moscow's Red Square occurred between 0730 and 0736. A total of 178 aircraft flew the normal parade route passing one-half mile north and east of the US Embassy and over Red Square at altitudes from 200 to 900 feet. No new type aircraft were shown. The aircraft count was as follows:


10 Bison
9 Bear
45 Badger
50 Flashlight A
60 Farmer
4 Fresco

2. Four of the Bison had nose probes. None of the Bison were equipped with a refueling tail boom. The observers who believed they saw one Bison equipped with a tail boom in the twelfth rehearsal must have been mistaken.

3. The formation and timing of the flyby was good.

4. The weather was clear with five miles visibility in haze.

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