

The total incremental cost of developing Poseidon, and producing and deploying the proposed force is estimated at \$3.3 billion. A total of about \$900 million is included in the fiscal year 1968 budget for Poseidon. (The decision to deploy Poseidon will produce an offsetting saving of about \$200 million in the Polaris program.)

Funds have also been included in the budget for the development of certain desired improvements for the Polaris missile.

Titan II. The Titan II force, consisting of 54 missiles deployed in hard silos, presently makes a unique contribution to our strategic offensive capabilities. However, with the deployment of Minuteman III and, later, of the Poseidon, this capability of the Titan II will no longer be unique. The Minuteman III from the continental United States and the Poseidon from forward undersea locations will be able to reach all the important targets in the Soviet Union.

Accordingly, we now propose to end procurement of new Titan boosters for testing and operational reliability demonstration with the fiscal year 1966 buy, and, instead, use boosters already in the inventory for these purposes in the future. With about six follow-on tests per year, the force of 54 Titan missiles on launchers can be maintained for a number of years.

New strategic missile systems. Although we believe the strategic missile programs now proposed will be adequate to meet the threat, even if the Soviet Union were to carry out a full scale deployment of an ABM system and develop more effective ICBM's, we are making a very comprehensive study of a new long-range missile system. To shorten the lead time on any option selected as a result of this study, we have included funds in the FY 1968 Budget for contract definition should such a decision become warranted.

Strategic bomber forces

The manned bomber forces we propose to maintain through fiscal year 1972 are the same as those I presented here last year for the fiscal year 1967-71 period. The B-52C-F's and B-58's will be phased out as planned, leaving a force of 255 B-52G-H's and 210 FB-111A's.

Since the new FB-111's with the SRAM air-to-surface missile will be entering the bomber force during fiscal year 1969-71 and the B-52G/H's can be maintained in a suitable operational condition well into the 1970's, there is no pressing need to decide on the production and deployment of a new bomber in the fiscal year 1968 budget. Clearly, the first order of business in the strategic offensive forces program at this time is the provision of penetration aids and other improvements for our presently planned strategic missile force, and the production and deployment of the new Poseidon. Nevertheless, we plan to continue work on the engine, avionics, and the related airframe studies, for which a total of \$26 million is programmed for fiscal year 1968.

Air launched missiles

Last year I said that we planned to keep the Hound Dog missiles in the operational inventory through fiscal year 1970, phasing their number down in step with the phase out of the B-52C-F's. We now propose to phase out the older Hound Dog "A" by end of fiscal year 1968, retaining only the "B" models.