1. An objective military assessment of the relative advantages and disadvantages of an observation post system to reduce the danger of a surprise attack, as pointed out in ref, would have to be based on a "model" and the basic factors, i.e., numbers, location, type, and freedom of movement allowed, spelled out.

2. In the absence of such data and not wishing to propose, at this time, the specifics of any system, SGN feel unable to do more than comment in general terms as follows:

   a. A system of observation posts could help
the West to detect the build-up of forces for an attack by conventional arms, but a surprise attack by missiles could not be detected in isolation.

b. Given the closed nature of the Communist society, some benefit to NATO intelligence is likely. Against this it must be anticipated that the Soviets would exploit the presence of their posts in the West for purposes of espionage, propaganda and even subversion.

c. Experience suggests that the West's observation posts might be subject to harassment or other uncooperative measures.

d. A system of observation posts could give a false impression of security such that the psychological effect might ultimately result in/weakening of Western forces.

3. SGN views are based on a review of current documents, and it is emphasized that these views are their own and do not necessarily represent the agreed opinion of national military staffs.