

The fingers on the Soviet nuclear button

The new commonwealth wants a unified 'three-button' control system on the Soviet Union's estimated 27,000 nuclear warheads

Who controls them

The nuclear force is still controlled by the military, under the leadership of the State Council

Mikhail Gorbachev
and the leaders of the 12 remaining
Soviet Republics

Defence and Interior Minister,
Head of the KGB
and economic advisors

STATE
COUNCIL

MILITARY

USSR Nuclear Strategic Forces

The number of warheads

- Missile bases
- Submarine bases
- Bomber bases

Estonia 270

Latvia 185

Lithuania
325

Byelorussia
1,250

Ukraine
4,000

Moldova 90

Georgia,
Armenia,
Azerbaijan 820

Russia
19,000

Kazakhstan
1,800

Uzbekistan,
Turkmenistan,
Kyrgyzstan,
Tajikistan 380

SS-18 ICBM
can deliver
ten 500
kiloton
nuclear
warheads