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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

20 OCT 1969

The Honorable Paul H. Nitze
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your draft of 1 October on criteria for judging SALT options, which should be helpful in clarifying and refining US negotiating positions. The CIA participants in Larry Lynn's working group say your paper is being used for just that purpose and that further discussion of the issues you raise will be taking place there.

Because the scope of your paper includes topics and judgments well outside the intelligence arena, I asked the CIA analysts to concentrate on Section III, where you discuss Soviet objectives. To your concise delineation of the Soviet leadership's expectations and beliefs, they would add another dimension which they believe should be useful to the discussion. Specifically, they feel the need for a more explicit distinction between long-term objectives and those the Soviets might consider to be realizable as short-term goals, given their domestic priorities and resource conflicts and their probable evaluation of the pace and direction of US weapons programs.

We have included some perspective on this concept in the recent NIEs on Soviet strategic forces and in our contributions to NSSMs 3 and 24. We believe it will also be a useful addition to the Lynn group's consideration of your paper.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms
Richard Helms
Director

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CONCUR:
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[Redacted]

16 OCT 1969

EDWARD W. PROCTOR
Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence

Date

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