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14 APR 1964

The Honorable William C. Foster
Director, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Bill:

This is in reply to your letter of 10 April, concerning proposed instructions to the US delegation at Geneva for an exploratory discussion of a freeze on strategic nuclear delivery vehicles.

Should the Soviets express any interest in a freeze, detailed discussions and negotiations would of course follow. I believe that such conversations should fully recognize and take into account some important problems. These center on the fact that although intelligence would be useful for policing a freeze agreement, it is also perishable and subject to compromise.

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Intelligence can assist in verifying the declarations called for by the freeze proposal, particularly those on aircraft production facilities.

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Intelligence can help to police controls over launchers, but there is no assurance that present capabilities will continue indefinitely. Thus, it seems to me important that the number of inspections to check undeclared facilities be great enough to protect against the perishability of intelligence and the danger of compromising sources and methods.

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In the meantime, I do not wish to interpose objections to the proposed instructions to the US delegation, as revised after your consultation with the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

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John A. McCone
Director

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