

SALT



Washington, D.C. 20510

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Honorable Frank Church, Chairman  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has been a pleasure for me to appear before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to discuss details of the monitoring capabilities of the U.S. Intelligence Community with respect to provisions of the SALT II Treaty. The fact that my appearances were in Executive Session recognizes the concern of the Committee for the sensitivity and classification of the information discussed. It has also allowed me to be totally candid while at the same time fulfilling my responsibility of protecting intelligence sources and methods as is my obligation under the National Security Act of 1947.

While finding it my duty to keep from public view the details of my discussions with the Committee, I would like to provide the following unclassified statement of my conclusions which you may use as you deem necessary:

My overall judgement, based on the considerations I have set forth in my testimony in Executive Session, is that during the period of the SALT II Treaty the U.S. Intelligence Community will be able to monitor most of its provisions well enough to provide confidence that the Soviets cannot gain a substantial strategic advantage through cheating. For the few provisions that we cannot monitor with this degree of confidence, I believe the Soviet perception of risks versus gains will make such cheating an unattractive option for them.

I will be happy to return in Executive Session at any time to answer further questions the Committee may have.

Yours sincerely,

STANSFIELD TURNER