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CLASS. OF TURNER, Adm.
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CIA'S TURNER CONFIRMS IRANIAN SALT INTELLIGENCE LOSS

Testimony to Congress by the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Adm. Stansfield Turner, confirms what defense officials were saying earlier this month (Defense/Space Daily, April 6 -- the intelligence gathering capabilities that were lost with the closing of the Iranian electronic facilities cannot be replaced before 1984, only a year before the SALT II agreement would expire.

Turner made his disclosure in a closed door hearing of the Senate Intelligence Committee last week, the hearing referred to by Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) when he denounced the Administration plan to fill the Iranian intelligence gap loss by using modified U-2 monitoring aircraft (Defense/Space Daily, April 17). The New York Times reported that several members of the committee were upset by Turner's testimony.

Last week Turner dodged reporters' questions on the issue of the Administration's claim of adequate U.S. verification capability for the SALT agreements. He said it was not the role of the director of the CIA to judge whether an activity by the Soviet Union would constitute a violation of a treaty, but a policy function to be performed by the President (Defense/Space Daily, April 16).

In a statement issued last week, Adm. Turner said: "Verification of the SALT treaty is a policy function ultimately performed by the President of the United States with the specialized advice of any individuals and agencies.

"Intelligence and monitoring of the treaty is only one of those inputs. The role of the director of Central Intelligence is to monitor Soviet performance with respect to the provisions of the treaty, not to judge whether an activity constitutes a violation of them.

"He gives his best estimate of our national capabilities to monitor the quantity and quality of the Soviet weapons controlled under the agreement. It is his responsibility to advise the policy makers on how well he can monitor each of the terms of the treaty. He will provide full details of his estimates of monitoring capabilities to the Senate in the course of its debate."

Several senators, as well as intelligence experts, have challenged the Administration's claims that it can adequately verify the Soviet Union's compliance with the provisions of the SALT II agreement, following the loss of the Iranian intelligence stations.

Goldwater, one of the most recent to speak out on this issue, says the Administration's plans for making up the loss of the Iranian stations, such as the modified U-2 monitoring aircraft, do not make sense -- "If they are so determined to get SALT II approved by the Senate, why can't they please come forward with some ideas that make sense and that will work?"

Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio) has taken issue with the Administration on the verification problem, to the extent that the President asked Glenn to censor his public discussion of the issue because of its sensitivity, while Rosalynn Carter was armed with a speech challenging Glenn's willingness to debate the subject publicly (Defense/Space Daily, April 11).

The issue, among others in the SALT agreement, has pushed Sen. Howard Baker (R-Tenn.) into a "leaning" position against the SALT II treaty. Baker recently said there is "no way you can legitimately say that treaty can be verified" (Defense/Space Daily, April 13).

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