

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 12, 1986

Executive Registry

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White House

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The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On February 26, 1986, you made a very persuasive televised speech to the nation on the vital necessity for a strong defense posture. We will support your efforts to close the serious gaps with the Soviets in weapons systems.

In your speech you described the unratified, expired SALT II Treaty as:

"...not just a one-sided arms agreement that made it easy for one side to cheat, but a treaty that actually permitted increases in nuclear arsenals. Even supporters of SALT II were demoralized, saying, well, the Soviets just won't agree to anything better. And ... President Carter had to abandon the treaty because Senate leaders of his own party wouldn't support it..."

We strongly agree with your critique of the SALT II Treaty, and we urge you not to dismantle two more Poseidon submarines this April in order to comply with this "fatally flawed," unratified, expired Treaty.

Sincerely,

James Helms
William Webb
Ben Armbr
Strom Thurmond
John Dan
Charles
Chuck Stansley
Sam Rosten

James A. M. Clure
Steve Symms
Eric Holt
King Hillings
Robert Humphrey
John P. East
Wack W. Miller

Letter to the President
on SALT II Treaty
March 12, 1986

James A. Baker
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Don North
Pat Wilson

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Copies to: Secretary of State
Secretary of Defense
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Director, CIA
Director, ACDA
Attorney General of the U.S.