

News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT ON SALT COMPLIANCE DECISION OF PRESIDENT

THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON CONTINUING A "PROPORTIONATE RESPONSE" POLICY TOWARD SALT II REFLECTS HIS STRONG DETERMINATION TO PRESERVE OUR COUNTRY'S SECURITY WHILE EXPLORING EVERY POSSIBLE CHANCE FOR MUTUAL, VERIFIABLE ARMS CONTROL.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SENT A CLEAR MESSAGE TO MOSCOW: THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT PERMIT THE SOVIET UNION TO GAIN ANY UNILATERAL MILITARY ADVANTAGE FROM ITS CONTINUED VIOLATIONS OF THE SALT II UNDERSTANDING. WE WILL DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY, INCLUDING THROUGH MODERNIZATION OF OUR OWN NUCLEAR FORCES, TO INSURE THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY AND OUR ALLIES. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR CAREFULLY ALL ASPECTS OF SOVIET COMPLIANCE, AND WE WILL RESPOND TO ANY SOVIET VIOLATIONS IN A MANNER WHICH WILL INSURE THAT THE RUSSIANS NOT OBTAIN ANY MILITARY ADVANTAGE FROM THEIR DECEIT.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE PRESIDENT HAS SENT AN EQUALLY CLEAR MESSAGE TO ALL OF US IN THIS COUNTRY AND TO OUR FRIENDS OVERSEAS: THAT WE ARE DEAD SERIOUS ABOUT ARMS CONTROL AND ARE WILLING TO MEET THE RUSSIANS HALFWAY -- BUT ONLY IF THEY ARE SERIOUS, TOO.

BY HIS DECISION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH DISMANTLING ONE OF OUR POSEIDON SUBMARINES IN ORDER TO REMAIN WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE SALT UNDERSTANDING, THE PRESIDENT HAS SET UP A GOOD TEST OF MOSCOW'S TRUE INTENTIONS. IF THE RUSSIANS RESPOND BY DISCONTINUING THEIR VIOLATIONS AND BY BEGINNING TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH IN GENEVA, THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION WILL HAVE OPENED UP THE REAL POSSIBILITY OF AN EFFECTIVE ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT. BUT IF MOSCOW RESPONDS BY CONTINUING TO VIOLATE THE INTERIM RESTRAINT ACCORD AND BY USING GENEVA SOLELY AS A LAUNCHING PAD FOR ITS PROPAGANDA, ALL OF US WILL BE ABLE TO ASSESS THE RUSSIANS' TRUE INTENTIONS, AND OUR OWN COURSE -- TO INSURE OUR NATIONAL SECURITY -- WILL BE CLEAR.

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