

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 20, 1985

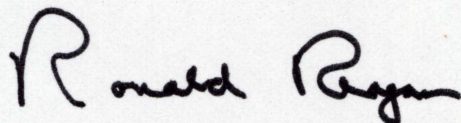
Dear Bob:

I am pleased that the Senate has acted, by a vote of 55 to 45, to authorize the release of FY 85 funding for 21 MX missiles. Please accept my personal gratitude for your support of S.J. Res. 71.

Few weapons programs have undergone such repeated and extensive analysis. The technological benefits of the MX missile, as well as its role in our overall strategic modernization, will serve to strengthen our deterrent capabilities and preserve peace.

I also believe that your action in the Senate yesterday will serve to strengthen the hand of our negotiators in Geneva. We have just begun what may be a long and complicated process to achieve real arms reduction. We do not know what the result of these talks will be. But one thing is certain -- there must be a mutual incentive for arms reduction, or the Soviets will simply wait us out while they continue to develop new systems. Congressional approval of the MX will strengthen this incentive, and again, my thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

The Honorable Robert Dole  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510