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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

January 19, 1976

Honorable John C. Stennis
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with your request of November 21, 1975, and my testimony to the Committee on November 13, 1975, I have reviewed the Secretary of State's testimony before the Armed Services Subcommittee on Arms Control on June 24, 1974. I have also familiarized myself with the documents and other materials available to the Defense Department which bear upon the questions discussed during the hearing.

While not personally involved in the SALT ONE negotiations, I believe that, on the whole, the Agreements were in the national interest. As to a future SALT agreement, I am convinced that it must be as specific and unambiguous in its provisions as it can be made in order to avoid any issues on Soviet compliance. In addition, I assure you again that, in the event a future SALT agreement is concluded, my recommendations to the Congress will be to the extent of my knowledge and personal understanding of the substance of the agreement and not beyond.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, as I said on November 13, 1975, I have every reason to believe the President will involve the Department of Defense in SALT matters. This has been the case during the intervening weeks. I fully agree that the Secretary of Defense should be made aware of all matters pertinent to the negotiations. I share with the President a determination to keep the appropriate committees of the Congress informed to the maximum extent possible on matters pertaining to agreements reached with other nations, including future agreements with the USSR on the limitation of strategic arms.

Sincerely,

/s/ Donald Rumsfeld

Attachment
Classified Transcript
dated June 24, 1974



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