

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT

FEBRUARY 25, 1976

Salt's 4 yrs Oct 1977

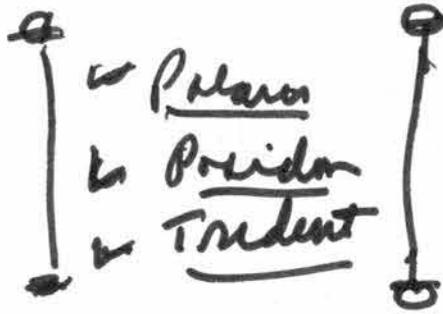
OUR PURPOSE IN SPONSORING THIS RESOLUTION IS TO EXPRESS
THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT A SECOND SALT AGREEMENT IS CLEARLY
IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

WE JOIN TOGETHER ON A BIPARTISAN BASIS BECAUSE WE BELIEVE
THAT THE ISSUE OF ACHIEVING FURTHER PROGRESS IN LIMITING THE
NUCLEAR ARMS RACE IS AN OBJECTIVE WHICH SHOULD BE ABOVE
PARTISAN DEBATE,

THE MOMENTUM TOWARDS ANOTHER SALT AGREEMENT MUST NOT BE
BLOCKED BY ELECTION YEAR POLITICS AND BUREAUCRATIC POLITICS IN
WASHINGTON. IF THIS WERE TO OCCUR, IRREPARABLE HARM WOULD
BE DONE TO THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING MUTUALLY NEGOTIATED ARMS
LIMITATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

WE ARE NOT OPPOSED TO SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE ON THE MANY
COMPLEX ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE SALT PROCESS. IT IS MY HOPE
THAT THIS RESOLUTION WILL HELP BRING ABOUT PUBLIC AND
CONGRESSIONAL DISCUSSION OF THE CRUCIAL CHOICES WHICH MUST
BE MADE BY OUR GOVERNMENT BEFORE A SECOND SALT AGREEMENT
IS CONCLUDED.

IF ANOTHER SALT AGREEMENT IS TO RECEIVE THE SUPPORT OF
THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IT MUST BE A DOCUMENT
WHICH MOVES US IN THE DIRECTION OF MEANINGFUL AND GENUINE
ARMS LIMITATION.



entry Process -
Deployment of Crew

L I WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT A TREATY WHICH
MERELY ENDORSES THE STATUS QUO AND ACTUALLY PERMITS THE
DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF A NEW GENERATION OF WEAPONS
SYSTEMS WHICH FURTHER DESTABILIZE THE ARMS RACE AND MAKE
FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS MORE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE.

SENATOR KENNEDY HAS ALREADY DISCUSSED THE CRUISE MISSILE.

L LET ME ADD THAT I CONSIDER THE STRATEGIC RANGE CRUISE MISSILE
TO BE AN ARMS CONTROL NIGHTMARE BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUS
VERIFICATION PROBLEMS. SECRETARY KISSINGER SHARES THIS VIEW.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT UNLESS THE CRUISE
MISSILE IS CAREFULLY LIMITED AT SALT AS WE SUGGEST IN THIS
RESOLUTION, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO BRING IT UNDER CONTROL AT
A LATER DATE AFTER IT HAS BEEN TESTED AND DEPLOYED IN A VARIETY
OF MODES.

WE HAVE REACHED AN IMPORTANT TURNING POINT IN THE PROCESS OF
MUTUALLY NEGOTIATED ARMS LIMITATIONS. THE DECISIONS TO
BE MADE AT SALT II ^{will A} HAVE [^] CRITICAL IMPACT ON THE FUTURE OF
SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND THE GOAL OF CONTROLLING THE
ARMS RACE.

I WILL REQUEST THAT THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HOLD
HEARINGS IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE ON THE RESOLUTION AND REPORT
IT TO THE SENATE FOR A RECORD VOTE.

THE MESSAGE FROM THIS RESOLUTION IS CLEAR. WE WANT
TO WORK WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE TOWARDS
THE GOAL OF CONCLUDING A SALT AGREEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE
THAT WILL MAKE MEANINGFUL PROGRESS TOWARDS REASONABLE ARMS
LIMITATIONS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

#####



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org