

Possible Public Affairs Statement

In his press statements accompanying the release of testimony by Henry Rowen, Chairman of the National Intelligence Council, on the Soviet economy, Senator Proxmire chose to emphasize one theme: the self reliance and strength of the Soviet economy. The testimony, in fact, presented a more complex picture:

- The marked slowdown in the Soviet economy in recent years.
- Despite this slowdown, the continued increases in Soviet military forces.
- The underlying strengths of the Soviet economy, its size, access to natural resources, strength of its human capital assets.
- The importance of Western imports in relieving critical shortages even though, as a whole, the Soviet economy is highly self sufficient.
- The much harder choices faced by the Soviet leadership among consumption, investment and defense.
- The Soviet economy is not going to collapse, only grow very slowly.

We encourage the press to read the full statement.