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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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December 31, 1986

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Acting Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Gates:

I very much welcomed the President's commitment last October to make ratification of the Threshold Test Ban and Peaceful Nuclear Explosion Treaties "a first order of business" in the new Congress and to work with the Congress in drafting a reservation. Pursuant to the President's decision, I told Senator Byrd of my own intention to give ratification the highest priority among Committee on Foreign Relations activities at the outset of the 100th Congress, and he expressed his desire to have the Committee report the resolution of ratification at the earliest practicable date in order to allow Senate consideration before the end of January.

I have scheduled hearings on the treaties for January 13 and 15, with markup anticipated on January 20. The Committee would appreciate receiving at the first hearing testimony by you or your designee, as well as other appropriate Administration officials, in support of ratification and further steps to constrain and ultimately end nuclear testing. The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. in the Committee's hearing room, SD-419.

I would like to invite the Agency to present testimony to the Committee in closed session at 2:30 p.m., January 13, in Room S-407, the Capitol. Your representatives should address the ability of the intelligence community to monitor Soviet compliance with the treaties at present and with the verification-related measures which would be required upon entry into force and with the additional verification measures now being contemplated. In addition, your representatives should address the issue of how improvements in seismology and other national technical means of verification have improved our ability to monitor the occurrence of Soviet nuclear explosions at designated test sites and at other locations, as well as our ability to estimate the yields of explosions down to the lowest levels.

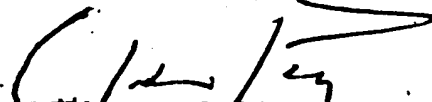
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If your staff has questions about your testimony or the hearings, George W. Ashworth of the Committee staff, who is coordinating the hearings for me, is available at 224-6790.

Thank you for your help. I look forward with pleasure to working with you on this and other issues related to our national security.

With every good wish.

Ever sincerely,



Claiborne Pell

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