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August 29, 1988

Dear Reader:

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The International Security Council, a Washington and New-York based public policy institution, is concerned exclusively with the character and scope of the Soviet threat to the security of free nations. Since its founding in 1984, the ISC has held over 30 conferences worldwide defining the nature of the threat, from the security of the sea lanes of Asia to the security of NATO's southern flank and the Middle East.

The ISC commends to you, as an opinion leader, complimentary copies of its two newest publications, both dealing with important aspects of the Soviet threat and its ability to maintain that threat. They are the proceedings of ISC conferences held, in September 1987 and January 1988, on the "Vulnerabilities of the Soviet Empire" and "The Defense of Western Europe."

Both conferences convened two-dozen prominent Sovietologists and strategic experts not only to assess the topic in question but to achieve clarity and consensus. Each proceeding begins with a declaration ("The Geneva Declaration" and "The London Declaration") that summarizes the views of the participants.

One proceeding covers the complexities of Kremlinology as well as the hard evidence of Soviet economics, demographics, internal politics, and power-projection capabilities, to assess real Soviet strengths and vulnerabilities. The other deals with the implications of the INF Treaty signed in December 1987 for the defense of our NATO allies, especially the credibility of the U.S. nuclear guarantee and the impact of *perestroika* upon Soviet military policy and capabilities.

The ISC, publishers of the widely-read quarterly, *Global Affairs*, hopes these enclosed publications, dealing with two aspects of America's top foreign policy concern - U.S. Soviet relations - will enrich your understanding and be useful in your professional endeavors.

Sincerely,

Joseph Churba

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