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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

NIO # 1322-74

PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD

June 13, 1974

Dear Mr. President:

In a letter dated April 30, 1974, your Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board forwarded to you its annual strategic threat assessment. Copies were simultaneously sent to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence. Among several areas of concern which were addressed in this report, the Board disagreed with a statement in NIE 11-8-73, Soviet Forces for Intercontinental Attack, which says "under no foreseeable circumstances in the next ten years are the Soviets likely to develop the ability to reduce damage to themselves to acceptable levels by a first strike against US strategic forces."

The DCI was asked to personally reassess the basis for this judgment and has done so in a letter to you dated May 18, 1974. The DCI amplified his rationale in a briefing to the Board during its last meeting on June 7, 1974, the thrust of which is that he continues to endorse the foregoing statement.

The Board is most appreciative of the DCI's special efforts and rapid response to its concerns. However, the members remain unanimous in their judgment that ten-year projections of what the Soviets are likely to do cannot be made with the degree of confidence which these national security issues require.

The DCI's presentation to the Board was commendable for its clarity and logic. The conclusion of the briefing, however, contains the essence of the Board's principal concern: that the US lives with a number of uncertainties regarding the USSR, any one of which could alter our perception of its capabilities and intentions to an enormous degree. These uncertainties are: Soviet goals? Damage levels which the Soviets would regard as acceptable? Performance of strategic weapons systems? Soviet technological advances? US/USSR interactions?

NSC review(s) completed.

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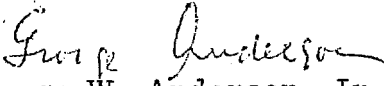
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On this basis, Mr. President, we remain concerned lest ten-year projections of Soviet perceptions, capabilities, and intentions unduly encourage a sense of complacency detrimental to the continuing development of adequate US strategic forces.

Respectfully yours,


George W. Anderson, Jr.
Admiral, USN (Ret.)
Chairman

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

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Routing Slip

TO:

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1	DCI			11	LC		
2	DDCI			12	IG		
3	S/MC			13	Compt		
4	DDS&T		✓	14	Asst/DCI		
5	DDI		✓	15	AO/DCI		
6	DDM&S			16	Ex/Sec		
7	DDO			17			
8	D/DCI/IC		✓	18			
9	D/DCI/NIO		✓	19			
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Date

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~~SPLS OFFER~~
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DCI/DCI

6/17/74