



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1068
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T O P S E C R E T USDEL SALT 804

13 July 1:33 PM

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SMITH'S VIEWS ON "ADVANCED ABM SYSTEMS" QUESTION

1. I SEND ALONG FOLLOWING PERSONAL VIEWS ON "ADVANCED ABM SYSTEMS" QUESTION. BEFORE WE PROCEED MUCH FURTHER IN THE ABM NEGOTIATION, WE SHOULD BE QUITE CLEAR AS TO THE DESIRED COVERAGE OF THE AGREEMENT. SHOULD IT COVER ALL CONCEIVABLE SYSTEMS FOR COUNTERING BALLISTIC MISSILES, OR JUST THOSE USING MISSILES AND RADAR?

2. NSDM-117 CLEARLY CALLS FOR THE FORMER, BUT MY FELLOW DELEGATES FEEL THAT THIS CENTRAL ISSUE DESERVES REVIEW SINCE IT WAS NOT FORMALLY ADDRESSED BY THE NSC MACHINERY.

3. IF I WERE IN WASHINGTON, I WOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) I BELIEVE THAT GENERAL PUBLIC EXPECTATION AT HOME AND ABROAD HAS BEEN THAT SALT WAS AIMED, IN ADDITION TO OFFENSIVE WEAPONS CONTROL, AT LIMITING ABM SYSTEMS AND NOT JUST LIMITING THE EXISTING TYPE OF HARDWARE.

B) UNLESS ABM SYSTEMS IN GENERAL ARE COVERED, COMPETITION IN "ADVANCED" SYSTEMS IS LIKELY TO PRODUCE SIMILAR SITUATION TO THE ONE WE NOW FACE AND WHICH WE ARE TRYING TO LIMIT IN SALT.

C) THIS FACT WILL BE RECOGNIZED BY EXPERTS AND CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM OF SUCH A NARROW APPROACH TO ABM LIMITATION COULD BE SEVERE. CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS FOR TWO YEARS HAVE NOT SURFACED THIS ISSUE AND SUSPICIOUS SENATORS MAY CONSIDER THIS SILENCE DELIBERATE. WHAT IS LOGIC IN BANNING SAM UPGRADE AND TESTING OF MISSILES IN ABM MODE WHILE PERMITTING TESTING AND DEPLOYMENT OF "ADVANCED" ABM SYSTEMS? BASIC PURPOSE OF SALT IS TO ENHANCE STABILITY. LEAVING OPEN DOOR FOR COMPETITION IN ADVANCED ABM SYSTEMS WILL BE DESTABILIZING.

D) IT'S BETTER (EASIER) TO CONTROL WEAPONS BEFORE THEY COME INTO BEING THAN AFTER.

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By JB NARA Date 8-17

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E) THERE WOULD BE NOT LIMIT ON RESEARCH ON SUCH ADVANCED SYSTEMS (FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES).

F) IF IT IS ARGUED THAT LASER "KILLERS" SHOULD BE COVERED BUT LASER SENSORS PERMITTED. SOVIETS COULD LEGALLY DEPLOY NATIONWIDE SYSTEM. QUERY WOULD US CONGRESS FUND SUCH A SYSTEM. HOW WOULD ONE DISTINGUISH BETWEEN LASER SENSORS AND LASER DEVICES FOR DESTROYING RVS? GP-1SMITH

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