

sections 216 and 234 of Public Law 104-106, the Fiscal Year 1996 defense authorization bill which the President signed into law on February 10, 1996. In particular, we called your attention to the Space and Missile Tracking System, the Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) program, and the Navy Upper Tier program. Therefore, we were dismayed by your February 16 press conference, in which you announced your intention to disregard key provisions of Public Law 104-106 by failing to provide funding sufficient to comply with this law.

With each passing day, new facts emerge which highlight the escalating proliferation threat. Your announcement of a decreased ballistic missile defense effort can only serve to strengthen the determination of nations with interests inimical to our own to continue to pursue these weapons of mass destruction and delivery systems which endanger American lives and interests. Conversely, eliminating our vulnerability in this area can only significantly reduce the incentive of rogue nations to pursue nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as ballistic missile delivery systems.

The funding level you announced on the 16th of February is insufficient for the THAAD and Navy Upper Tier programs, respectively. We will authorize and appropriate funding in the Fiscal Year 1997 defense bills for these programs—which we believe complement, but cannot replace each other—at the levels necessary to achieve operational capability by the dates now specified in law. While we hope to accommodate as much of your FY '97 budget request as possible, please understand that we will not hesitate to alter the budget request as necessary to bring it into compliance with section 234 of Public Law 104-106.

Sincerely,

John Warner; Richard Shelby; Ted Stevens; Kay Bailey Hutchinson; Jesse Helms; Spencer Abraham; Conrad Burns; Rick Santorum; Bob Smith; Mike DeWine; Paul Coverdell; Connie Mack; Don Nickles.

Jon Kyl; Thad Cochran; Jim Inhofe; Larry E. Craig; Chuck Grassley; John McCain; Rod Grams; John Ashcroft; Mitch McConnell; Orrin Hatch; Al Simpson; Trent Lott.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the Washington Times, Mar. 15, 1996]

REPORT ON MISSILE THREAT TO U.S. TOO OPTIMISTIC, WOOLSEY CHARGES

(By Bill Gertz)

Former CIA Director R. James Woolsey told Congress yesterday that a recent intelligence estimate on the missile threat to the United States was flawed and should not be used as a basis for defense policies.

Appearing before the House National Security Committee, Mr. Woolsey challenged the conclusions of a recent national intelligence estimate (NIE) that said no long-range missiles will threaten the 48 contiguous United States for at least 15 years.

Limiting the estimate's focus on the missile threat to the 48 states "can lead to a badly distorted and minimized perception of very serious threats we face from ballistic missiles now and in the very near future—threats to our friends, our allies, our overseas bases and military forces—and some of the 50 states," he said.

Broad conclusions drawn by policy-makers from the estimate could be "quite wrong," he said, noting that North Korean intermediate-range missiles could threaten Alaska and Hawaii with "nuclear blackmail" in "well under 15 years."

To make policy judgments on missile defense needs from the limited analysis is

"akin to saying that, because we believe that for the next number of years local criminals will not be able to blow up police headquarters in the District of Columbia, there is no serious threat to the safety and security of our police," Mr. Woolsey said.

The estimate, based on public testimony and statements about it, also is flawed because it underestimates the danger of long-range missiles or technology being acquired internationally by rogue states, or the possibility that friendly states with missiles could turn hostile, he said.

A CIA spokesman could not be reached for comment.

Mr. Woolsey called for setting up a special team of outside experts to explore how to develop ballistic missiles. "I would bet that we would be shocked at what they could show us about available capabilities in ballistic missiles," he said.

Rep. Floyd D. Spence, South Carolina Republican and committee chairman, said that to say the United States is secure from foreign missile threats over the next 15 years is "dangerously irresponsible" because of the global turmoil.

Mr. Spence has asked the General Accounting Office to investigate whether the 1995 NIE on the missile threat was "politicized" to fit Clinton administration opposition to missile defenses.

The first statements about the NIE were made public by Senate Democrats during debate on the fiscal 1996 defense authorization bill, which President Clinton vetoed in December because he opposed its provisions requiring deployment of a national missile defense.

Mr. Clinton said at the time of the veto that U.S. intelligence did not foresee a missile threat to the United States within the next decade.

Mr. Woolsey said that, if the president extrapolated a general conclusion from the very limited threat assessed by the NIE, "I believe that this was a serious error."

In separate testimony, Richard Perle, assistant defense secretary during the Reagan administration, criticized the Clinton administration's effort to expand the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty to cover short-range anti-missile defenses.

"To diminish our capacity to deal with these threats in the mistaken belief that it is more important to preserve the ABM treaty unchanged is utter nonsense," Mr. Perle said. "Those who urge this course are hopelessly mired in the tar pits of the Cold War."

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I have several unanimous consent requests on behalf of the majority leader. Mr. President, all of these requests have been cleared by the Democratic side.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, March 14, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,035,165,720,616.33.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,111.91 as his or her share of that debt.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 11:40 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 163. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

The enrolled joint resolution was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

At 12:57 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2854) to modify the operation of certain agricultural programs and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. EMERSON, Mr. GUNDERSON, Mr. EWING, Mr. BARETT of Nebraska, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. POMBO, Mr. DE LA GARZA, Mr. ROSE, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. VOLKMER, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. CONDIT as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

The message also announced that the House has passed the bill (S. 735) to prevent and punish acts of terrorism, and for other purposes, insists upon its amendments, and asks a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. HYDE, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BUYER, Mr. BARR of Georgia, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BERMAN as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

MEASURES REFERRED

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of the following measure which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. 1412. A bill to designate a portion of the Red River in Louisiana as the "J. Bennett Johnston Waterway," and for other purposes.

The Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of the following