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Statement by Senator James L. Buckley on SALT Accords June 27, 1975

I was disturbed by the content of President Ford's remarks at his press conference on Wednesday (June 25) to the effect that the Soviet Union has "not violated the SALT agreements." Such a statement ignores an enormous amount of evidence available within the U. S. intelligence community concerning a persistent pattern of apparent Soviet violations of numerous elements of the first round SALT accords and the ABM treaty. Reasonable men can differ as to the military significance of the Soviet violations, but it is not reasonable to sweep them under the rug as if they are of no significance or are not now happening.

I urge the President to make available to members of the Congress on a classified basis, the relevant intelligence community documents on the character of Soviet compliance with the SALT accords. Under such circumstances, the Congress will be able to decide if the SALT accords which they ratified in 1972 are being adhered to by the Soviet Union.

It is of great importance that the Congress be fully satisfied as to the ability of the U. S. to verify Soviet compliance with existing and future SALT accords. If members of the Congress are not satisfied on this point, the President may risk a serious confrontation with the Congress when second round SALT documents come to the Congress for ratification. It would be highly imprudent for the Congress to ratify such documents if there is unresolved evidence that the Soviet Union has not complied with the provisions of the first round Accords.

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