

(5) The Department of the Army requested the elimination from the record to be published several portions of testimony submitted by Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Maxwell Taylor. When challenged on the classification, over 90 percent of what had been taken out was restored. Among the passages finally declassified were those containing general discussions of new nuclear weapons development and the tactical uses of these weapons. They also put back statements the general had made on the necessity of improving our nonatomic or conventional weapons capabilities if a nuclear weapons test ban should go into effect, general information on the fabrication of nuclear weapons, expressions of opinion regarding the reliability of agreements with the U.S.S.R., views on the psychological impact of a nuclear test suspension on people around the world, and the effects of nuclear fallout.⁵

(6) The Government continues to classify significant information dealing with seismology—the study of earthquakes and movements in the interior of the earth. This includes testimony given before the Disarmament Subcommittee and documents submitted to the subcommittee by executive agencies. The subcommittee has never received a satisfactory explanation as to why such studies should be kept secret.⁶

The reason that such studies should be made available is that advances in the science of seismology are needed and necessary to improve our knowledge about the detection and identification of underground nuclear explosions. It is to the interest of the United States to speed up our work in this field so that we may have a better conception of the capabilities of a control system for the cessation of nuclear weapons tests. An expanded research program in seismology is essential and a number of well-qualified and prominent seismologists and geophysicists have recommended specific projects; yet, the detailed description of these projects and the estimates given for the workability of certain theories for the detection and identification of nuclear weapons tests remain closed to the public and to scientists throughout the country. What is particularly of concern is that some of our scientists who have visited the Soviet Union within the past year report that in some fields in seismology the Soviet Union is much more advanced than the United States and that in many respects more money is being spent on fundamental research in seismology in the Soviet Union than is being spent in the United States.

This suggests to me that the Department of Defense should not be the primary agency responsible for developing programs in the field of seismology and related scientific fields. Perhaps if this work were lodged in the Coast and Geodetic Survey of the Department of Commerce or the National Academy of Sciences, the scientists of the country would have access to the results of studies made and experiments conducted.

⁵ Ibid., pp. 116, 117, 118, 119, 133, and 136.

⁶ Since preparing this statement I am pleased to report that some of this information has been released. Some material contained in the Berkner report on seismic improvement was released on June 12. There is the possibility that more of such information will be forthcoming.