

Mrs. BOLTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is always good to see you.

Mr. FOSTER. Thank you.

Mrs. BOLTON. I wanted to ask one or two questions about this latest to-do with the Soviet and wondering if the fallout is going far beyond what it should, their denial of this. I wanted to ask you one basic question. Have you been at all convinced that the Soviet Union is going to start a new career and keep its word anywhere?

Mr. FOSTER. Well, Mrs. Bolton, may I tell you what we have done in connection with—

Mrs. BOLTON. I think it would be advisable.

Mr. FOSTER (continuing). With this event. The event took place on January 15.

Mrs. BOLTON. May I interrupt you for a moment and suggest that you include whether this was a deliberate violation or whether it was just what they call accidental?

Chairman MORGAN. Mrs. Bolton, will you yield to me?

Mrs. BOLTON. Of course.

Chairman MORGAN. I have talked to the Director about this and of course he can go only so far in an open session. He has volunteered to come back in an executive session. He is willing to say as much as he can about this today in open session. If he is to give detailed answers to specific questions he would rather come back and talk to the committee in executive session.

Mrs. BOLTON. I agree very heartily in that suggestion. I hope when he does come back he will be more than honest in what he tells us.

Chairman MORGAN. I have always found the Director to be a very frank and honest individual.

Mrs. BOLTON. He has to be.

Mr. FOSTER. I think I can respond to almost all the questions you ask in a way I hope will give you the specific answers to the questions which you have so far given me.

Mrs. BOLTON. Don't go too long because I have another question.

Mr. FOSTER. This will take 3 of your 5 minutes, perhaps. On January 15 the explosion took place and on January 16 the United States made this announcement:

The United States yesterday recorded seismic signals from an event in the Soviet nuclear testing area in the Semipalatinsk region.

On January 19 there was a further development of what we knew and that was a statement by the AEC:

As previously reported, the United States detected through seismic signals a Soviet underground nuclear test in the Semipalatinsk area on January 15 with a yield in the intermediate range. The U.S. detection system has now detected a certain amount of venting connected with the test. The amounts of radioactivity measured to date will not produce measurable exposures to persons. In view of the treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in outer space, and underwater, the Department of State has asked the Government of the Soviet Union for information on this event.

Yesterday the Soviet Ambassador came in with an oral message in response to that question. In an oral reply to our inquiry the Soviet Government has stated that a nuclear explosion was carried out deep underground on January 15 and that some radioactive debris was released into the atmosphere. However, the oral reply states that the amount is so insignificant that the Soviet Government excludes the