

possibility of a violation of the limited nuclear test ban treaty. The United States is continuing its own evaluation of the facts involved.

Further than that we have come to this conclusion: This particular event—which on the basis of what we now know appears to have been accidental—may have been a technical violation—but again, on the basis of what we know now, it does not by itself represent a threat to our national security or to the purposes of the test ban treaty, nor standing alone does it represent a resumption of testing prohibited by the treaty.

This point of view is not just my own, but represents the considered judgment of the Committee of Principals. Because of the importance of the subject, however, the matter is under continuing study.

Mrs. BOLTON. Sometime you will tell us what your Committee of Principals is. And do you work at all with the Defense Department?

Mr. FOSTER. Perhaps I can answer that by stating that the Committee of Principals consists of the Secretary of State as Chairman, the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, the Director of Central Intelligence, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the President's Special Assistant on National Security Affairs, the President's Scientific Adviser, the Director of the USIA, the Administrator of the Space Agency, and myself.

We work on a daily basis with the Department of Defense.

Mrs. BOLTON. May I ask you if you feel that the Defense Department, which has closed 95 military bases, consolidating them and so forth, last November, has reduced our military posture or will this be an improvement?

Mr. FOSTER. The Secretary of Defense has stated that this does not reduce our military posture and it improves the efficiency and the adequacy and the appropriateness of our—

Mrs. BOLTON. The Committee of Principals has examined this and approves?

Mr. FOSTER. That is a judgment which the Secretary of Defense makes—not through the Committee of Principals. The Committee of Principals is designed to work in the field of arms control and disarmament primarily in reviewing, discussing, and recommending to the President the kind of actions—

Mrs. BOLTON. You are, of course, aware that a good many people outside of that group and your group and the Defense Department don't trust the statement that it doesn't impair our military strength.

Mr. FOSTER. You have told me of a number of people who don't trust it. I do trust it.

Chairman MORGAN. I am sure she has in mind, Mr. Director, some Members who have military bases in their districts which are being closed.

Mrs. BOLTON. I don't mean that at all. I want to know the overall impact.

Mr. FOSTER. We have in our Agency nothing to do with the closing of these bases.

Mrs. BOLTON. Of course you don't. I quite agree to that. Have you looked into it at all? Do you know what it does?

Mr. FOSTER. I agree with the Secretary of Defense's evaluation of it on the basis on which he made his decision from the knowledge which I have, which is not my direct responsibility.