

Mr. FARBSTEIN. Do you think that you could at this time in view of the type of hearing it is, give me your opinion in connection with the multilateral force? I didn't get the colloquy before. I don't know if you made any statement with reference to it, and what your advice was in connection with the multilateral force. Is this something that you would care to speak to at this hearing or do you think that you prefer to speak to that in a private hearing?

Mr. FOSTER. I can state, sir, that in this field my advice has been that one should keep in mind the relationship of such a force to the ultimate objectives of the United States in arms control and disarmament. I think it is perfectly clear that we have an obligation to bring our allies strongly into the Atlantic Community and alliance, and that we have a right and justification to feel concerned about the several hundred nuclear and intermediate missiles aimed at them and the nuclear force is designed to reassure them on this point.

I think that the basic objectives are certainly things which we can support, and in our discussions with the President, which of course are privileged advice, we have maintained the objectives in which we know he believes, and we have had very many discussions on this general subject with him and with the Committee of Principals who are also concerned with this problem.

Mr. FARBSTEIN. I take it then from your answer that you favor our joining the multilateral force and this organization be instituted and be permitted to function; is that correct?

Mr. FOSTER. Under the appropriate conditions; yes, sir.

Mr. FARBSTEIN. I don't know what you mean by "appropriate conditions." Would you be a bit more —

Mr. FOSTER. It must be consistent with our overall objectives in this field of arms control and disarmament.

Mr. FARBSTEIN. Of course you anticipate the functioning of this agency will of necessity bring on a counterforce? You understand what I have reference to, don't you?

Mr. FOSTER. You mean in the Warsaw countries?

Mr. FARBSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. That has been suggested. I am not sure that will necessarily come into being.

Mr. FARBSTEIN. Has it been your advice or your opinion to the President or to the organization that you described before, of which you are a member, has it been your advice that—or at least your opinion—that this counterforce will not come into being even though we proceed with the multilateral force?

Mr. FOSTER. I think there are some things which would influence the Soviets in not going this way. I think that there is a real question as to whether they would necessarily develop such a counterforce.

Mr. FARBSTEIN. Would you care to say what you base that statement on?

Mr. FOSTER. I would doubt that they have the same confidence in their allies that we have in ours.

Mr. FARBSTEIN. That is the basis of your determination; is that it?

Mr. FOSTER. It isn't a determination, sir. This is my opinion.

Mr. FARBSTEIN. And that is the advice you gave to the President?

Mr. FOSTER. I am not going to state what advice I have given to the President, and how.

Mr. FARBSTEIN. That is all.