

they had refused to discuss, the destruction of some carrier vehicles and so forth. What do you say about this?

I am not suggesting that I would not support a continuation of the Agency at this time. I think it is important, particularly in view of the changing situation in Eastern Europe, to do so.

But would you want to comment on my statement?

Mr. FOSTER. I think one must discuss these complicated matters at great length. I think the discussions have clarified many of the uncertainties and have led in some cases to actual working out of arrangements. I don't think that you can just make a decision at the top that you are going to for instance get rid of all nuclear weapons without a long period of discussion.

I think the period of discussion that preceded the limiting of the stationing of weapons of mass destruction in orbit is an example of the educational process about the advantages of nonarmament in an environment where it would be extremely costly if we armed, and extremely threatening.

I think the discussions are a necessary accompaniment to any progress in this. I think the Geneva discussions over the period of 2½ or 3 years now has perhaps been the greatest enlightenment to many, many nations of what one must do in this to achieve practical progress.

I think that the ability to know what the effects of various things will be is, of course, No. 1, an outgrowth of our research program; No. 2, I think the grasp we have of those subjects enables us at those discussions to point out why this is good, what the effects will be, will it maintain the present balance, such as it is.

No, I think this is a very essential part of this sort of important negotiation which is as complicated as any kind of negotiations that I recall in history. And I think you need this continued discussion and I think the 18-nation forum is something that if it did not exist we would have to invent it.

Mr. MONAGAN. One of the important functions of the Agency, I think, has been focusing attention on the problem that would exist in the defense industry if there were any change or any progress along the road to disarmament. What developments in this field have there been in the Agency since the last time you were here?

Mr. FOSTER. There have been no major developments as such, Mr. Monagan, except that the coordination with other agencies whose actions create conditions like those which might occur in disarmament. The relationships have become much closer and the working relationships in the President's Committee have developed in a way that has been very useful, and of course the contact with regional groups, with state authorities to which I referred earlier, have become of great value in these plans and in working out details toward the end of minimizing any effects of cutbacks, changes, and the employment dislocations which are occurring.

There are, of course, new activities in the bills, the Hart bill which was passed since we met here, and this sets up a mechanism for both public and governmental participation in these studies. We have had a lot to do with that particular activity.

Mr. MONAGAN. Reference has been made previously to an effort to get a treaty by which the nations signing it would agree that there