

Mr. FOSTER. Mrs. Bolton, as I said yesterday, I am not in a position to appraise firsthand the effect of such a closing. On this I depend with full confidence on the analysis made and presented by the Secretary of Defense. He has stated—

Mrs. BOLTON. Who makes that analysis—Secretary McNamara?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes.

Mrs. BOLTON. Who does it for him? He doesn't do it.

Mr. FOSTER. He has testified to this, I think, in public hearings on the Hill, that this in actuality will lead to a more efficient Defense Establishment and, rather than weakening, actually will make it possible to have greater strength in the things that are essential to our security.

I think he has said this not only on the Hill, I think he—I think the President has underwritten that statement.

Mrs. BOLTON. Would you talk a little louder?

Mr. FOSTER. Excuse me. I think the President has underwritten that statement by the Secretary of Defense by stating his own confidence that these facts are true. I can say out of my past experience that there certainly have been at various times in the history of the Department of Defense bases in this country and elsewhere which perhaps in the interest of efficiency and economy could be closed. This has been a difficult political situation for obvious reasons. I think that the Secretary has recognized, has attempted to recognize, both sides of this thing, and has done what in his judgment would best contribute to the carrying out of his responsibilities as Secretary of Defense.

Mrs. BOLTON. What of the screens that we had put around ourselves toward the north as to intercepting possibilities?

Mr. FOSTER. The distant early warning line and many of the defensive warning systems of course were designed primarily against aircraft, rather than against the rapid and much more difficult to intercept or to prophesy intercontinental missiles. I think a number of these installations have, in effect, become obsolete.

Mrs. BOLTON. Are we doing anything about the intercontinental missiles?

Mr. FOSTER. We are certainly doing everything we can for the shortest warning times. The question of adequate anti-ballistic-missile system is one that has not been solved. Yet there is a good deal of experimenting going on. There is a real question as to whether this is the best way to protect the United States. There is a feeling on the part of many strategists that the best protection is a strong offense, an offense that can be developed and one which can actually flood any defense that has been so far developed, and much more cheaply.

Mrs. BOLTON. Do we have any kind of protection against the Antarctic?

Mr. FOSTER. We have some warning systems. We have some screens that take account of the missile traffic. We have, of course, the normal radar protective and warning systems, but again this is the least likely area through which a massive attack would be mounted.

Incidentally, in speaking of the Antarctic, we have, as I said yesterday, made an on-site inspection of all the installations in the Antarctic and have found no evidence of military activities in the Antarctic.

Mrs. BOLTON. Not on the ground. What about air? What are the Communists doing in the air?