

Senator PERCY. It runs to about \$100,000 a man. Now that is a great deal of expense. We have to average it out. A man might have a \$6 million jet or he may have a \$40,000 tank.

Senator STENNIS. Yes.

Senator PERCY. It seems to me that from the standpoint of cost, we could commit ourselves to equip these Asian forces at far less cost and certainly less cost in manpower. It seems to be that the threat to them, their security, their well-being, their right of self-determination is far greater than the threat to us back here. They are the first line out there.

Senator STENNIS. You are correct.

Senator PERCY. In returning from England with Congressman Rumsfeld, I think we were impressed with the fact that rather than our allies giving us greater support in this area, it seems there is going to be a lot less support.

There is talk in England of the British pulling out east of Suez. They now have got 40,000 forces in Singapore. What if they did pull out of Singapore? At your estimated cost of maintaining a man, that is another \$3 to \$5 billion. Is any provision made in the budget for picking up that kind of an obligation and responsibility?

Senator STENNIS. Oh, no. There is no provision to assume the burden if they pull out. I just pray that that won't happen.

But I agree with you. Our allies should give us greater support.

It is necessary to have their agreement before they will fight or before they will take part, and they are not coming as yet. The Philippines are in jeopardy if anyone is, as I see it, and they are helping some but not a great deal militarily. Somebody must be mistaken about this being a crisis or a real challenge.

Senator PERCY. Senator Stennis, could we relieve the pressure on us economically in this implied commitment we have to police the whole world, now that Europe has been rebuilt, now that they have got something really to fight for, now that the East-West tension is not nearly as great as it was under Stalin, is there some basis for believing we can gradually, with the concept and cooperation of our allies and possible mutual deescalation from East and West reduce the load and the cost that we have in Europe?

Senator STENNIS. Well, that certainly is a possibility. Frankly, I personally think this is not the right time to jump up and do this on a drastic scale. I am on the joint committee that has been appointed from Foreign Relations and Armed Services to hear the Mansfield resolution.

That generally is my position. We could cut down a good deal of the money cost, I think, without reducing the military value and power. But there has got to be a reevaluation, and that includes NATO, although I lean toward NATO as a very valuable alliance. It has been good and still can be.

I made the point in 1954, by the way, when we went into Vietnam, Senator, that we were going in alone. That impressed me. No one