

Chairman PROXMIRE. Mr. Alexander. Thank you for an excellent statement. This is most helpful to us.

Several thoughts occurred to me in connection with your statement. No. 1, what is the relationship of your agency to the Ackley committee that was appointed this year, that is to study the effects of the deescalation of the Vietnam war? Is Mr. Foster a member of that committee, or is anybody from your agency represented on that committee directly?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Foster is not a member of that committee, which is a Cabinet level committee. We are, however, represented on some of the working groups into which the top committee is subdivided.

Chairman PROXMIRE. All the members of that committee are Cabinet members?

Mr. ALEXANDER. All of the members of what was referred to earlier in these hearings as the Ackley committee, I believe, are Cabinet members.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Except Mr. Ackley.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Except Mr. Ackley.

Chairman PROXMIRE. I see. Because it just occurred to me that your committee should be, it seems to me, the one that has the best claim to representation on it. You are created for the purpose of studying arms control and disarmament in all of its aspects, and certainly one of the major studies you conducted with great competence, I would say on the basis of this, is what would reduction of armaments, what effect does that have on our economy.

Therefore, you have these years of research and a very helpful viewpoint that I think can contribute a great deal. But I understand it was a Cabinet committee, and apparently that is the difficulty. I wish they could make an exception, not only of the chairman but of Mr. Foster.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Well, sir, I will tell what you say to Mr. Foster, but I might say, sir, speaking seriously, that we are in daily touch with the people who are doing the work on this, and we have furnished them, of course, copies of the research and given them our ideas.

Chairman PROXMIRE. I am sure you are doing all you can possibly do to work with them. It seems to me you ought to have a voice in the committee's determination of where this goes, and so forth.

What is your impression as to the present status of this Ackley committee? We have had a lot of pessimistic talk this morning. General Westmoreland gave a pessimistic estimate of the duration of the war yesterday, saying there is no end in sight, and maybe he is right. And we certainly must be prepared for that.

On the other hand, we never do know. Sometimes the clouds are darkest before the sun breaks through. It is conceivable that we could have negotiations rather soon. What would happen? Do we have any contingency plans available now to your knowledge to move in, if the war should end promptly?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Chairman, I suppose there could be argument whether if there is a cease-fire in Vietnam, that is technically due to arms control and disarmament. I don't think we need to get into that technicality. All the planning and the research which we have done on different aspects of the problem are available to the Ackley