

*Testimony Submitted,
No appearance.*

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OF THE UNITED STATES

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To the Members of the Republican Platform Committee:

The Atlantic Council of the United States is a non-political organization of citizens. As our name implies, the Council is concerned with public understanding of the problems and opportunities, and mutual relationships, of the Atlantic group of nations, and now also including Japan, Australia and New Zealand. We conduct studies and conferences involving political, economic, and security questions. We work with NATO, the OECD, the IMF and maintain liaison with the European Communities as well as with citizen organizations in the other NATO countries.

We publish a quarterly journal, scholarly in nature, a newsletter and a number of books. To give an idea of the breadth of our interest, among our most recent books have been one on Detente Diplomacy: United States and European Security in the 1970's, examining the

issues involved in the proposed European Security Conference and Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions; International Economic Peacekeeping in Phase II, examining prospects and methods for negotiating new trade accords; and Managing the Environment: International Economic Cooperation for Pollution Control, which discusses the international accords that must be arrived at if we are to control pollution and at the same time not erect new non-tariff barriers.

Because of the nature of our work we at the Council are sensitive to the fact that there are few international issues which the United States can effectively or safely decide alone. These things must be done in consultation and agreement with our partners.

We think that the United States and its partners abroad face today a unique opportunity to reorganize international relations to achieve a more peaceful and productive era, but this country can't do it alone. We must act in concert with others.

We welcome the agreements recently reached in Moscow and those between the Soviet Union and the German Federal Republic as a basis upon which to build firmer peaceful relationships. At the

same time we must remember that it is the strength and unity of purpose of the NATO nations which has made it possible to reach these agreements. First priority must continue to be given to strengthening that unity of purpose, policies and action in all fields.

At a time when there is movement and a willingness to negotiate on both sides of the Iron Curtain, we must carry forward vigorously the negotiations which have been so well begun. But equally we must maintain our defense and modernize it as necessary to ensure our deterrent capability.

To preserve this delicate balance will call for persistence and steadiness of purpose rather than any sudden or unilateral action which might cause either our allies or our adversaries to doubt our intentions.

NATO is a case in point. This organization has been a continuing success, according to the standards of any impartial observer. The Europeans are progressively bearing a larger share of the burden. In the sweep of history it is clear that a peaceful and secure Europe is as necessary for the well-being of the United States as it is of Europe.

There has been talk of a drastic reduction of U.S. troops in Europe. If this is a result of an American decision alone, we think

the results would be calamitous. While we favor negotiations for a Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction within the context of Alliance policy, we think there would be little chance for such an agreed reduction if the leading member of the NATO coalition reduced its forces unilaterally. The only chance of effective savings without serious risk is within the context of agreed alliance policy, and with no further reductions except on a mutual and balanced basis.

Maintaining the strength and steadfastness of NATO is the foundation on which other initiatives for peace and security in the world must rest.

We think these same principles of international cooperation apply all through other political and economic fields. We must learn to use more effectively the instruments of joint action which are now available.

The agenda for the future, as a follow up to the Moscow agreements, should be:

A new round of SALT negotiations hopefully freezing development of new weapons systems by a more permanent offensive

weapons treaty, to be followed by disarmament negotiations looking toward the reciprocal dismantling of some of the systems that already exist. Concurrently we must assure the weapons retained under the recent SALT agreement and any further agreement are modernized in reflection of technological developments.

Mutual and Balanced Force reductions in Europe negotiated with the Warsaw Pact in concert with our partners.

Trade and monetary negotiations to underpin the economic well-being of the free world.

Gradual relaxation of trade restrictions with the Communist countries.

Participation in and leadership of the proposed European Security Conference, seeking among other things to ease the movement of peoples and the flow of information and ideas throughout Europe and elsewhere, but avoiding any steps which would weaken the NATO Alliance. Every effort should be made to achieve actual constructive results from such a conference rather than merely the illusion of improved relationships.

There is much else that could be developed in greater detail but these are the principal points we would hope to see stressed

in the Republican Platform.

We submit, for the Record, a list of the officers and directors of The Atlantic Council of the United States.

W. Randolph Burgess
June 28, 1972

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THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES
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