

EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Copenhagen, Denmark

November 30, 1983

Skoleforsamlingen  
Viborg Amtsgymnasium  
Skaldehojvej  
8800 Viborg

Thank you for your letter of November 11 in which you express your regret and concern over the deployment of both NATO Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) in Western Europe and of similar Soviet weapons systems in East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

We agree wholeheartedly with you that there are too many nuclear weapons in the world and that continued negotiations should aim at a reduction in arsenals on both sides.

There can be no doubt about United States and NATO commitment to effective arms control. As a defensive alliance, we have always been committed to, if not eliminating entirely, then maintaining, only the minimum number of nuclear weapons necessary to deter aggression. This was reflected in the 1979 dual track decision which called for active negotiations with the USSR on the one hand and failing progress towards an agreement, the gradual deployment of NATO missiles beginning this year.

In this regard, the 1979 NATO decision called for a review of the total number of nuclear weapons needed to defend Europe. As a result of this review 1,000 nuclear weapons were withdrawn in 1980. In October of this year NATO decided to withdraw an additional 1,400 warheads.

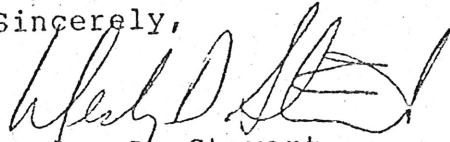
These withdrawals cut the number of NATO nuclear warheads by one third, reducing the NATO nuclear stockpile to its lowest level in 20 years.

By contrast, the Soviet Union has continued its INF build-up and has currently over 1,300 of these warheads deployed, mostly aimed at Europe. Since the Geneva negotiations began in 1981, the Soviets have deployed over 100 SS-20 missiles with over 300 nuclear warheads. The Soviets suspended the talks when it became clear that these negotiations would no longer serve their purpose of codifying a Soviet INF monopoly in Europe.

The Soviets, not NATO or the United States, stand in the way of reaching an agreement.

Our negotiator, Mr. Nitze, is still in Geneva. We are hopeful that the Soviet Union will realize the equity and flexibility of our proposals and return to the talks. Believe me, no stone will be left unturned in our efforts to find a just solution to the question of nuclear arms control in Europe.

Sincerely,



Wesley D. Stewart  
Counselor of Embassy  
for Public Affairs

In this regard, the US has been calling for a review of the nuclear situation in Europe. As a result of this review, US nuclear weapons are being reduced to a level which is consistent with the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

That which will be done is to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in Europe to a level which is consistent with the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Since the Soviet Union has continued its INF program, we have been forced to increase our nuclear weapons in Europe. Since the Soviet Union has continued its INF program, we have been forced to increase our nuclear weapons in Europe.