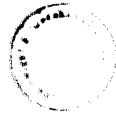


Remarks Made by the Honorable J. Edgar Hoover,
Secretary of State, at White House Conference on
Protection, January 25, 1950

The Threat of Future Wars

Relation to World Policy



There has been much discussion concerning the potential of
anticipated military capabilities of the Soviet Union. By their statements
by their statements the Soviet leaders have made it completely clear on the
basis of their powerful military capabilities that they are determined
to induce the free world to accept the Soviet presence and the settlement
of outstanding international issues.

As you know, we will soon be entering into negotiations with
the Soviet Union at the highest level and open to all nations and
government convene in Paris for the purpose of representing all the
and Soviet bloc countries will be given an equal opportunity to
agreement on disarmament, including disarmament of general armaments.
allies is now engaged in maintaining negotiations but first to
negotiations. We are firmly committed to the peaceful settlement of
standing issues between ourselves and the Soviet Union and to
proached around the negotiation table without threats, without
attempts by one side to dictate terms to the other. It is
up by the words which Premier Malenkov has used in his
his recent trip abroad.

However, our relations with the Soviet Union will be improved if
have made clear beyond a doubt that we are open for a genuine
for a meaningful peace must be based upon a settlement of our
of our own. We must assume that we have on our part, and on the
supposition on the other side that we are neglecting our own
serves neither peace nor the interests of mankind. It is
reason that over the years we have developed a substantial
capability for retaliation. It is our duty to ensure that we properly
safeguarded and effective means of providing a deterrent to
provide an alternative means of providing a deterrent to
the peoples of the world. This deterrent capability will be
strengthened.

A vital part of our policy is the strengthening of our
civil defense program which, by providing a deterrent to
creates a strong deterrent to potential aggressors.

If, despite our earnest efforts at the negotiating table and our defense preparations, we should nevertheless be subjected to nuclear attack, civil defense and measures for fallout protection are the most practicable and feasible means of saving the greatest number of lives. Numerous studies have shown that such a program would give a substantial portion of our population an excellent chance of survival and would provide us the opportunity to continue the fight successfully. In other words, a capacity to retaliate will be reinforced by our ability to survive. And only thus can we develop a potent and credible deterrent.

This conclusion of course has relevance to our foreign policy and to the conduct of our foreign relations. I believe this interpretation is aptly described in a study made by the Joint Commission on Organization of the House Committee on Government Operations for several years ago on civil defense. In it we find the following statement:

"There is an enormous difference between bargaining with a country which can, for example, put its people into a safe place in 24 hours' notice and that which cannot. It is difficult for the reader to visualize this. He must just imagine what the Russians had done exactly, had they had the capability to do so. He should ask himself how he thinks they would have acted at a bargaining table."

There is evidence that the USSR is stepping up its civil defense program. Combined with a substantial program for a defense of our cities, Soviet negotiators with a good deal of assurance that their own cities will be able to withstand attack. A similar assurance with respect to our own country would clearly strengthen our bargaining position.

What I have said not only applies to our specific military and diplomatic posture; it applies to our NATO partners as well. We participate actively in the various NATO committees which deal with emergency planning, and much progress already has been made. Our NATO allies and other friendly countries are feeling somewhat in need of fallout protection than we ourselves. It is our recognition that in order for further progress is needed before we can claim that we have sufficient deterrent as a deterrent against enemy aggression.

We count on our NATO allies to remain firm in the face of our aggressive threats. An effective program of fallout protection will provide further support for their determination to do so. But we also must take further measures to protect our own population, even if it is being held behind.

As I have said, any additional progress which we can take to minimize the fallout danger will reinforce our military and defense position, thereby, its political and negotiating strength. It is my earnest hope that we will make prompt and substantial progress in this direction.