

# PRESIDENT WARNS OF ATOM BUILD-UP IF SALT TALKS LAG

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Says He Will Ask Congress  
for \$3-Billion Unless Soviet  
Signs Accord This Year

## TALKS TO LEGIONNAIRES

He Calls Detente a Fervent  
Desire for Peace, but Not  
Peace at Any Price

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Special to The New York Times

PEORIA, Ill., Aug. 19—

President Ford warned today that he would be compelled to accelerate the nuclear-arms race if the Soviet Union did not agree to a curb on strategic weapons this year.

"Unless agreement is achieved" at the Geneva talks on strategic-arms limitation,

Excerpts from Ford speech  
to Legion, Page 12.

the President told the 57th national convention of the American Legion in Minneapolis, "I will have no choice" but to ask Congress for nearly \$3-billion over the next two years to step up development of nuclear weapons.

In a 31-minute speech that was interrupted by applause 27 times, the President said that détente meant "a fervent desire for peace, but not peace at any price." He also made the following points:

☐Soviet actions in strife-torn Portugal would be a test of Moscow's fidelity to the 35-nation security accord signed early this month in Helsinki, Finland. The United States expects Portugal to restore a democratic form of government, he said, but the Portuguese "must find the solution in an atmosphere that is free from the pressures of outside forces."

☐Congress should restore American arms sales to Turkey. He contended that he was "at a loss to explain" Congressional willingness to risk damage to the Atlantic alliance and the loss of strategic intelligence information through Turkish retaliation against the arms embargo.

☐National security must be tied to a resourceful, if legally restrained, intelligence effort. Mr. Ford warned Congressional investigating committees that he would not brook "sweeping attacks" on the Central Intelligence Agency.

Intelligence Service Defended

He said intelligence was essential to American "survival" in a risk-filled world, adding: "Today's sensations must not be the prelude to tomorrow's Pearl Harbor."

He said that he would recommend to Congress legisla-

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tion to guard against future abuses by the intelligence community but that "any reckless Congressional action to cripple the effectiveness of our intelligence service in legitimate operations would be catastrophic."

While defending détente and warning the Russians not to abuse a cooperative atmosphere, Mr. Ford told the 6,000 appreciative Legionnaires that "peace is crucial but freedom comes first."

He Hopes for Cut

He said that he hoped the current budget of \$9.8-billion for strategic weapons could be cut next year in the wake of an anticipated Soviet-American arms accord.

"But until I am certain of real progress, I must reserve final judgments about the defense budget and particularly our plans for strategic nuclear forces," the President said.

Coming less than three weeks after Mr. Ford and Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, both reported "progress" in arms discussions during the European security meeting in Helsinki, the President's stern words about weapons spending suggested that a hoped-for accord might not be obtained this year.

White House officials accompanying Mr. Ford on a two-day political trip across the Middle West declined to say whether the President was warning Moscow not to impede an arms agreement or was assuring conservative Legionnaires that the United States would not enter lightly such an accord.

Strongest Statement Yet

His address in the huge Minneapolis Convention Center was the strongest foreign-policy statement since he became President a year ago.

The President, wearing a blue Legionnaire's overseas cap and proclaiming pride in his continuing membership in the Furniture City Post 258 of Grand Rapids, Mich., delivered the remarks in a day that included five speeches at seven events in Minneapolis and in central Illinois.

He dedicated a new library at Pekin, Ill., as a memorial to the late Senator Everett M. Dirksen, addressed the closing session of a White House conference on energy and the economy here in Peoria and attended or spoke at four Republican fundraising events in Minneapolis and Peoria.

Raising a political theme that will be central to his bid for a full term in the White House next year, Mr. Ford told his party audiences that "Republicans have always believed that too much government spending has been the primary cause of inflation."

Defense Budget Backed

But he exempted defense spending from the call for restraint and, in the American Legion address, chastised "sincere but short-sighted Americans who believe that the billions for defense could be better spent for social programs to help the poor and disadvantaged."

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, who Mr. Ford has been saying is his most likely Democratic opponent in 1976, sat behind the President at the Minneapolis convention and applauded with the Legionnaires—except, notably, when Mr. Ford described his plans to seek more money for nuclear arms from Congress.

The President said that American demobilization after each war had involved some "folly" but that the danger of disarming unilaterally now posed "infinitely higher" stakes.

Spending on the war in Vietnam short-changed the strategic weapons programs, he contended, and "if our technological lead is not rapidly recovered this could be fatal to our qualitative superiority in the future."

Any reductions in outlays for nuclear weapons would be "conditioned on real progress" in the arms-limitation talks, Mr. Ford said.

He said that "our adversaries" were not reducing levels of military power and that without a Soviet-American agreement to stop the arms race "I will have no choice but to recommend to the Congress an additional \$2-billion to \$3-billion for strategic weapons programs in the current and coming fiscal years."

Arms Requests Indicated

Officials who traveled with the President said that he would ask, if necessary, for an extra \$1.4-billion for nuclear weapons in each of the next two budget years—ending on June 30 of 1976 and 1977—plus an as yet undetermined amount in each of the three fiscal years after those.

These funds would be on top of the \$9.8-billion Mr. Ford asked for nuclear-weapon outlays in the current defense spending proposal that totals \$92.8-billion.

Speaking of détente, Mr. Ford said it was a "confusing" French word that could not adequately sum up relations between the world's two most powerful nuclear powers. But he said that to him it meant "moderate and restrained behavior" on both sides and "not a license to fish in troubled waters."

The tone of Mr. Ford's Legion speech was markedly different from his address to the

Veterans of Foreign Wars soon after he had become President. It was at the V.F.W. convention last year that he outlined a program to grant conditional amnesty to the Vietnam war draft resisters.

The President's remarks today seemed more suited to the political leanings of the American Legion, and thus perhaps an overture to part of the 1976 electorate. But one official with Mr. Ford said that with the election nearly 15 months off it also seemed logical to read into the address a message to Moscow.