

China 'Close' to Being Superpower

Washington

The Central Intelligence Agency believes China is on the verge of becoming a superpower in intercontinental ballistic missiles. Senator Stuart Symington (Dem-Mo.) said yesterday.

CIA director Richard A. Helms briefed the Senate Armed Services Committee privately Monday and Symington said he was "shocked to find out how close another

is to becoming a superpower, particularly in the field of missiles."

"This to me reduced the practical effects of the SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation) talks."

Symington would not give details of the Helms briefing, but said the imminent "superpower" country is China, which is not involved in any disarmament negotiation.

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