

SFChronicle DEC 4 1975

# Soviet Violations — What Ford Was Told

## Washington

The State Department and former Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger have denied an assertion that Soviet violations of strategic arms limits were withheld from President Ford. Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, former chief of naval operations, had told the House Intelligence Committee Tuesday that Mr. Ford had not mastered details of the arms agreements on his own and that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had been less than candid in explaining the violations to Mr. Ford.

"That's a preposterous charge," responded State Department spokesman John H. Trattner yesterday, adding that he was speaking for Kissinger.

And Schlesinger told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that he is "inclined to disagree" with Zumwalt.

"The President was aware of the alleged violations," Schlesinger said, although he said the information was "closely held" because of a treaty commitment to raise the question of violations first with the Soviets. This,

he said, resulted in a delay in informing Congress.

Trattner said. "We have no evidence that there have been any violations of the agreement," and he declined to discuss Zumwalt's charges.

He said that the Standing Consultative Commission, which handles disputes over violations of the arms agreement, operates in secret and has been "quite successful."

Schlesinger said there are two alleged violations that have surfaced.

The introduction of a missile with more carrying capacity than contemplated by the United States may have violated the spirit but did not violate the treaty itself, he said.

And, Schlesinger said, there is some question about whether the testing of radar with anti-ballistic missile ability is a violation.

Schlesinger told the committee that the United States should pursue detente "but keep our powder dry" in relations with the Soviet Union.

*Associated Press*