

Helms Reported to Say China Nears Status of 'Superpower'

Washington, Jan. 9 - Richard Helms ... reportedly told [the Senate Armed Services Committee] today that China may be approaching the status of a "superpower" because of advances in weapons technology.

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According to [Senator Stuart Symington], the disclosure by Mr. Helms "reduces the practical effect" of the strategic-arms limitation negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

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... Mr. Helms declined to describe his testimony after the hearing yesterday.

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