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SALT

United States Senate  
Office of the Majority Leader  
Washington, D.C. 20510

July 11, 1979

Dear Colleague:

On June 22, President Carter transmitted to the Senate for its advice and consent the proposed SALT II Treaty and Protocol. We are now entering a period of public hearings before the appropriate committees, to be followed by debate on the Senate floor. During the course of this consideration, Senators will find it necessary to consider highly sensitive intelligence and national security information.


In order that this material be handled in the most appropriate and useful manner, we have discussed the matter with the leadership of the Senate Committees involved. It was agreed to recommend that highly sensitive information, particularly with respect to intelligence sources and methods, be available only to Senators and only in secure areas such as G-308 Dirksen and S-407 in the Capitol. When sensitive questions are raised in open hearings, we believe Administration witnesses may properly suggest that the matter be dealt with in either the Intelligence Committee or the Office of Classified Security Information.

We recognize that Senators will have many questions about the agreement and various and differing views about it. We wish the SALT debate in the coming months to be open and constructive, even with the constraint of security considerations on some issues. There is no doubt that some of the information that will be made available will be highly sensitive, and its disclosure could be used by the Soviets to our disadvantage to counter our security and intelligence programs.

It is therefore important that all of us exercise the greatest care in our public statements in order to

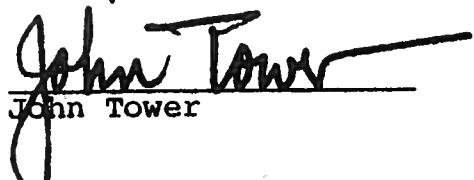
avoid damaging our national security. We hope and urge that all Senators will use the sensitive information at their disposal with judgment and discretion.


Sincerely yours,

  
Howard H. Baker, Jr.


  
Barry Goldwater

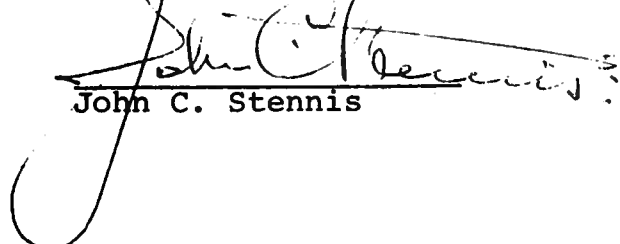
  
Jacob K. Javits

  
John Tower

  
Robert C. Byrd

  
Birch Bayh

  
Frank Church

  
John C. Stennis