

FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. Chairman, members of the platform committee

I am Mark Tulis from Manhasset Hills, New York and I am the former student body president of Brandeis University, in Waltham, Massachusetts. I am here to speak to you this morning about the defense posture of the United States.

In America today, there is a growing feeling that defense spending must be cut back and the resources used instead to solve domestic problems. Americans have been made cynical with defense spending. Cancelled programs, waste, and cost overruns seem to plague the Pentagon, and it often appears that money is serving no purpose.

I have often found myself feeling the same way, and my first inclination was to speak to you against further spending, however, when I sat down and read the facts, and approached the question with an open, objective mind, I could not help but admire the job the Nixon Administration has already done in reducing costs and getting more out of our defense dollar. This is an accomplishment that is worthy of praise, and the American people must be made aware of this.

During the Nixon Administration, defense spending has been cut more than at any other time since World War II. The 1973 defense budget, in fact, imposes the smallest economic burden on the country of any defense budget in more than 20 years, consuming only 6.4 percent of the estimated Gross National Product.

Just as revealing is the reordering of priorities that has been accomplished the past four years. In 1968 45% of the Federal Budget was spent for defense, and only 32% for human resources. In the 1973 budget these percentages have been reversed, with human resources receiving 45% of the budget, and only 32% for defense. A major shift in priorities like this took courage and foresight.

America's record in the cause of peace over the last three decades has not been a good one. Three foreign wars and a serious episode of nuclear brinkmanship are not an admirable record. For the time however, we are breaking away from confrontation politics and going towards negotiation under President Nixon. However, this has not been accomplished by withdrawing from the world and allowing our

Friends to Founder. Instead we have resisted the aggressive endeavors of other nations, and have shown the Soviet Union that we will not stand by idly when they begin a new episode of military adventurism. We have shown them that there can be little to gain from such a policy.

To our allies, we have shown a readiness to aid them materially in their efforts to protect themselves, but we have made it equally clear that no longer will the U. S. bear the full responsibility for their defense. Instead, other nations have begun to shoulder more of the burden for their own safety.

This new strategy is now called the Nixon Doctrine--and it has begun to work. Not just in South Vietnam where South Vietnamese have taken over the main role in their own defense and the United States has withdrawn over 500,000 troops, but with our allies throughout the world It has allowed the U.S. to move toward an all volunteer army when just three years ago draft calls were running as high as 300,000 to 400,000 annually.

Most importantly, all these innovations have not threatened the security of the United States. In our relations with the Soviet Union, we have negotiated the first limitation of the nuclear arms race in history--and that is a mutual limitation, not one that leaves the United States weak and the Soviet Union strong, not a unilateral reduction in our strength which would leave us easy prey to the whims of another nation. The Soviet Union was rapidly expanding its nuclear arsenal when Richard Nixon entered office, it is now bound by limits which will help to protect the peace. President Nixon has shown he can deal with the leaders in the Kremlin, and has helped in increasing the flow of Soviet Jews allowed to leave the Soviet Union from 1200 in 1970 to an estimated 35,000 this year. America has been the historic home of the oppressed of the world, and we should continue to pressure the Soviets to release those jews willing to leave the country, as we should pressure any country that oppresses a people.

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While those who have seized control of the Democratic Party favor unilateral cuts in our military preparedness and ability to defend ourselves, President Nixon has pledged to keep America strong. A strong America is vital to the further cause of peace. We cannot allow ourselves to be at the mercy of another nation. He will maintain the strength we need to deter aggression and prevent our becoming a second rate power. He will advance the cause of arms control---knowing as he does that if we unilaterally cut our defenses there will be no reason why the Soviet Union should reduce their own forces. The cause of liberty needs a strong America, an America not subject to nuclear blackmail.

One area in the world deserves some special mention, and that is the Middle East. Richard Nixon has done much to help maintain the truce that has stood in the Mid-East for two years now. The truce has stood because the President has made it clear to the world that Israel's autonomy would not be sacrificed. He has maintained a policy fair to both sides and sought lasting peace---but not at the cost of Israel's continued existence as a nation. We must not let the recent departure of Soviet technicians from the United Arab Republic lull us into a false sense of security. The danger of war is as real as ever. We should continue seeking peace, but we must continue to supply Israel with aid, both economic and military, needed to maintain the military balance and prevent a renewal outbreak of fighting. And we must never sit by and allow Israel to become victim of aggression.

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before your committee.