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~~MR~~ PRESIDENT HAS SOME . . .

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 9, 1976

MR PRESIDENT:

You asked for a copy of the House
Republican Conference rebuttal to
Reagan's defense posture charges.
The complete text is attached for
you to retain.

Jim Connor

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *M-L*
SUBJECT: House Republican Conference Attacks Reagan
Defense Statement.

The House Republican Conference issued the attached rebuttal to Reagan's defense posture charges.

*ME 7
Excellent
Get me a copy*

NEWS

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

1618 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515 202 225-5107

March 4, 1976

JOHN B. ANDERSON, M.C. (ILL.)
CHAIRMAN

MICHAEL F. MACLEOD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANDERSON SCORES REAGAN'S DEFENSE CRITIQUE

"Tragic though the implications may be, Ronald Reagan has declared war on America's defense posture--and for reasons that are seemingly narrow and political," said Representative John B. Anderson, Chairman of the House Republican Conference tonight.

Anderson, in response to Reagan's charge that U.S. military power is inferior to that of the U.S.S.R., condemned the presidential hopeful's scare tactics and added, "In an eleventh-hour scramble to win more votes in a primary election, Ronald Reagan has confused subtle but critically-important qualitative and quantitative aspects of U.S. defense policy and posture."

"It is one thing," said Anderson, "to attempt to raise the level of debate on the vitally important question of U.S. military strength worldwide. It is quite another," he continued, "to indulge in superficial slap-dash analysis that tends to mislead rather than to inform."

"True," Anderson said, "The Soviets maintain a 4.4 million-man army to our 2.1 million-man force. However, it should be pointed out that 1 million of Russia's troops are tied up on the Chinese border. Russia's remaining 3.4 million soldiers--plus her satellite forces--are counter-balanced in the West by U.S. and NATO forces."

To refute Reagan's charge that the U.S. is outgunned, Anderson recalled testimony given three weeks ago by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who appeared before a House task force on national security:

"Rumsfeld testified that in terms of overall U.S.-U.S.S.R. military balance, the U.S. has a substantial technological edge. The U.S. still holds the upper hand, Rumsfeld told us, and the lead has not been erased."

"Rumsfeld spoke of 'quality and qualitative superiority' and not of 'quantity,'" Anderson noted. "Thus the United States maintains a credible deterrence around the world against the Soviet threat."

To back up his assertions Anderson noted such facts as:

o The U.S. maintains a 4-to-1 advantage over Russia in the total number of nuclear warheads. Moreover, the accuracy of U.S. MIRV's is superior to that of Russia's systems.

o our lead in strategic bombers is three-to-one.

o our aircraft carriers outnumber the Russian's by 14 to 1.

o U.S. tactical nuclear weapons outnumber the Russians by 7,000 to 3,000.

"I could go on and on," Anderson observed. "But it is clear from these few examples that we are not about to be buried by the Communists. Our forces are second to none!"

"It is indeed regrettable that Reagan has chosen to raise a legitimate issue, and then set about to confuse it and thereby distort it in the eyes of the American public. I would hope," Anderson concluded, "that our presidential candidates would be sensitive to the nuances of national issues, the delicate shadings of public policy, and that they would strive to articulate their understanding and mastery of the issues to our citizens."

Trudy,

Nancy Kennedy called and asked if we knew exactly what it was the President wants a copy of, since the Anderson statement (which is the complete text) was attached when the memo went in.

I assumed it might be the Reggan attack on our defense policy--or even possibly the Rumsfeld testimony referred to--but Jim thinks it is the Anderson statement and we should just send it back in. My feeling is we ought to put all 3 in a package. E.

*what
do you
think
?*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF
FROM: JIM CONNOR *JEC*
SUBJECT: House Republican Conference
Attacks Reagan Defense Statement

The President reviewed your memorandum of March 8 on the above subject and made the following notation:

"Excellent - Get me a copy."

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney