The original documents are located in Box 132, folder “May 7, 1974 - Statement, Senate Rejection of Aid to Vietnam” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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I observed that in the present Watergate climate any votes by the Congress to cripple the Defense budget or commitments to our allies make it much more difficult for the President to negotiate for peace.

We need and want a sound strategic arms limitation agreement with the Soviet Union. The best way to get a satisfactory agreement is to maintain the military strength of the United States which contributes a principal part of our diplomatic clout.

Every vote by the Congress to undercut either our military posture or our credibility with our allies makes the President's task of negotiating an agreement that much more difficult.
STATEMENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT
Tuesday, May 7, 1974

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