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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

PAT M. HOLT, CHIEF OF STAFF  
ANTHONY M. KURL, CHIEF CLERK

April 29, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

After months of careful deliberation by the committees and full membership of the Senate and House, the Congress has passed The International Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Act of 1976. As you know, during consideration of this legislation, Members of the House and Senate have been in continuous and close contact with representatives of the Departments of State and Defense. We believe that this process of consultation exemplified the most responsible and effective method of reciprocal action between the two branches relevant to the conduct of the foreign relations of the United States.

We recognize that the International Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Act provides for a substantial increase in Congressional participation in the foreign policy process. However, we believe that increased Congressional involvement and responsibility is both necessary and desirable and, further, that the development of new forums for Congressional participation will serve to unify the total conduct of our foreign policy. As you consider what action to take on S.2662, we urge that you consider carefully its effect on this evolving relationship between the President and Congress.

We do not contend that all differences were resolved in the consultative process, but where this was not possible, both sides made a sincere effort to understand the other's problems. As a consequence, numerous and substantial modifications were made in the bill, both in Committee and in conference, designed to accommodate the Administration's concerns while protecting principles which the respective sides considered vital.

Among the unresolved issues are some which can be cast in Constitutional terms. But we would hope that you will assess this bill not solely in terms of Constitutional principles or Presidential prerogatives, but rather in terms of whether it will allow you to do what you consider right and proper while at the same time recognize the meaningful role of Congress in the formulation and oversight of foreign policy.

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We believe that you have worked with us long enough to know our appreciation of your responsibilities in the conduct of foreign relations. In this sense you have had and will continue to have our understanding and cooperation. We ask, in return, that you sign this bill into law and let us determine together over the course of the coming year whether it should be modified.

We believe that the provisions of S.2662 should be considered on their own merit. In this regard, we believe that it is highly significant that you do not appear to be linking your consideration of this bill to the separate question of transitional quarter funds for programs in the Middle East. Of course, if S.2662 does not become law, adequate funding for our efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East could be seriously jeopardized.

We urge that the process of consultation and cooperation between executive and legislature continue as you consider whether to sign The International Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Act of 1976. We believe that a meeting with you could help to resolve your concerns about the legislation. If you share this view, we are prepared to meet with you at your earliest convenience.

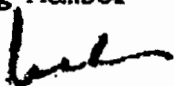
Sincerely,



Hubert H. Humphrey  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Foreign Assistance



Clifford P. Case  
Ranking Member



Jacob K. Javits

The President  
The White House