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MARCH 8, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE
BUDGET COMMITTEE

THE CABINET ROOM

4:35 P.M. EST

The press is here and we won't start the business but I wanted to ask you, Brock, and Del and the members of the Committee to come down and talk about the defense budget. It is a very significant part, as you know, of this document in dollars as well as substance.

I have recommended \$112.7 billion, a \$1.7 billion increase for strategic forces and \$4.5 billion increase in general purpose forces and \$1 billion more for conventional readiness and \$1 billion more in R&D. It is an increase but I think it is important and I hope we can sit and talk about the pros and cons, but it is something that involves all of us whether we are Democrats or Republicans.

END

(AT 4:36 P.M. EST)