

JUNE 1, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary
-----NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 2679 -- Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. This bill establishes a Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe to monitor implementation of Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

S. 2679 will establish the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, composed of twelve congressional and three executive representatives, to monitor actions of the signatories "which reflect compliance with or violation of the articles of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe", signed at Helsinki, Finland on August 1, 1975. The bill directs the Commission to monitor particularly the provisions of the Final Act relating to Cooperation in Humanitarian Fields (these include sections on human contacts, information, cultural and educational cooperation). It further directs the Commission to monitor and encourage the development of Federal and private programs to take advantage of provisions in the Final Act to expand East-West economic cooperation and interchange of people and ideas.

The fifteen-member Commission would be comprised of three Presidential appointees (one each from State, Defense and Commerce), six members from the House appointed by the Speaker (with one such member designated by the Speaker to serve as chairman), and six Senators appointed by the President of the Senate. The six members from each House would include four from the majority party and two from the minority. S. 2679 requires the Commission to report periodically to the House and Senate and to provide information to Members of Congress as requested.

The bill requires the President to submit semiannual reports to the Commission (the first six months after enactment) which shall include (1) a detailed survey of actions by signatories to the Final Act reflecting compliance with or violation of the provisions of the Final Act and (2) a listing and description of present or planned programs and activities of Federal agencies and private organizations to take advantage of provisions in the Final Act to expand East-West economic cooperation and interchange of people and ideas. It also authorizes appropriations of \$350,000 for each fiscal year for the Commission.

The sponsors of this bill are Senator Clifford Case and Representative Millicent Fenwick both of whom participated in the bill signing.

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