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STATEMENT BY STROM THURMOND ON HIS REELECTION TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE, AIKEN, S. C., NOVEMBER 6, 1956

I am deeply grateful to the people of South Carolina for again electing me to the United States Senate.

Uppermost in my mind as I resume the duties of U. S. Senator is the tense international situation. Certainly none of us can escape the seriousness of this crisis. President Eisenhower has stated that with the new missiles of destruction now available, the only way to win a 3rd World War is to prevent it. My first pledge to the people of South Carolina as I return to Washington is that I shall continue to do everything in my power to preserve the peace with honor and keep our nation out of war.

Having just returned from a 24,000 mile official inspection tour of our defense outposts and visiting other foreign countries, I am more convinced than ever that a strong national defense establishment is our greatest protection against war. During 1955 and the early part of this year I fought in the Senate for a stronger reserve force. I shall continue to advocate a strong reserve and other defense measures.

At this time our country must, more than ever, be united on National Defense and foreign policy. The election is over and Americans of all political beliefs must stand firmly behind our President. I shall cooperate with him in his efforts to strengthen our National Defense and develop the strongest possible foreign policy.