

NEWS STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND GIVEN OVER PHONE TO SOUTH CAROLINA CORRESPONDENTS, OCTOBER 10, 1957.

The Russian development proves that the United States must stop laughing off claims made by the Soviets. We must devote ourselves to the task of being the best-prepared nation on earth. I believe that real preparedness will help to preserve the peace. Only when Russia believes she is strong enough would she attack the United States. This is proved by the fact that Russia has attacked only weaker countries.

It is a very dangerous condition for the U. S. to fall behind Russia in scientific development of weapons.

We must recoup as quickly as possible before it is too late.

I have just returned from visiting military installations in Europe and I have been deeply impressed with the morale, dedication to duty and combat readiness of our troops overseas. We must keep faith with them by speeding up our research program and give them the best weapons in the world.

No, I am not going to resign my reserve commission. A strong reserve is necessary for the defense of our country.

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