

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST OF MARCH 21-22, 1959 (RECORDED MARCH 19, 1959).

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

We are facing today in Berlin/a crisis surpassing in seriousness/any confronting the United States since the end of World War II. The Russians and their communist friends/have kept the world stirred up almost continuously during the past 13 years/since our victory over the Axis powers, even involving the United States and the Free World in armed conflict in Korea. However, nothing in this span of years has so threatened our nation and our friends/as the arbitrary and bullying tactics of Soviet Premier Krushchev, backed up by his wealth of modern weapons of destruction -- nuclear explosives, jet aircraft, rockets and missiles/and the largest fleet of submarines ever assembled in the history of the world.

President Eisenhower recently addressed the nation/on the critical nature of the Berlin crisis, calling his speech the most serious one he has made since taking office in 1953. This statement is a sobering one, when our war with Korea is recalled and our involvement in other crises/such as those in Egypt, Lebanon, Formosa, Hungary/and other countries around the world/are remembered.

The nuclear holocaust that could result from any wrong calculations/on the part of the Russian leaders or our leaders/is frightening to consider. But, consider it we must. I am in

complete agreement with President Eisenhower /that we must stand firm in Berlin. NATO Commander Norstad has stated that if Berlin falls, then NATO will collapse very shortly afterwards. We cannot afford to lose our strength in Europe, retreating across the Atlantic to our own shores -- now penetrable by rockets, missiles and submarines /of the Russians.

There is no controversy between political parties /or between conservatives and the so-called liberals /on the seriousness of the Berlin crisis /and the need for maintaining adequate forces with which to meet this crisis head on. Disagreements do exist between the President and his defense secretary on the one hand /and leaders of Congress and the armed services on the other /as to the desirability of increased <sup>defense</sup> appropriations requests /at this time. The Administration feels sufficient funds have been asked for. Many leaders of Congress question whether this is true /on hearing testimony to the contrary from top-ranking chiefs /of the various branches of the Armed Services.

I subscribe to the view /that the Administration has not requested a level of defense forces /below the minimum necessary for adequate defense.

Nevertheless, I do not believe that the Administration's budget requests for defense /are sufficient. It will not be waste to provide a margin of safety /against the probability of human error, or even the unknown of our enemies' strength, in this area on which our very survival depends.

There are several areas in which I believe we should expand

on the Administration's proposals.

First, the Congress should provide sufficient funds/to insure the ability of the Strategic Air Command/to maintain at least a reasonable portion of its force on constant air alert. We must not permit this vital part of our retaliatory striking force/ to be destroyed on the ground in the event of an enemy attack.

Second, we must move faster with production of second generation missiles. This includes intercontinental missiles, the intermediate range Polaris system/and particularly the anti-missile missiles.

Third, we must increase personnel/and provide the most modern equipment and weapons for our ground forces/which would be used principally in a war of limited aims.

This margin of safety which I advocate for our defense program/can be provided within the limitations of a balanced budget/by cutting or eliminating certain non-defense programs/ which promote Socialism and a strong centralized government. I shall continue to fight for a strong defense program/and less Socialism in our domestic programs.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.

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