

Bates College

SCARAB

Congressional Records

Edmund S. Muskie Papers

6-15-1971

**Press Release - Arms Control and U.S. Strategic Defense
Decisions**

Edmund S. Muskie

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scarab.bates.edu/mcr>

MUSKIE

7/10/71

Maine

(202) 225-5344

FOR RELEASE

Contact: Maynard Toll

Tuesday a.m.
June 15, 1971

Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine), Chairman of the Arms Control Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called today for a searching consideration of the arms control effects of U.S. strategic defense decisions.

"We must know before we agree to build a weapon" he said, "that it is needed to protect our security and that it will not fuel the arms race or preclude the chances of meaningful arms agreements in the future."

In a speech on the Senate floor announcing the witnesses for the hearings by the Arms Control Subcommittee to be held on June 16 and 17, Muskie argued that "buying more arms does not necessarily lead to more security, and that the control of arms can provide us with a more stable peace and more security than the best weapons money can buy."

The upcoming hearings will examine the arms control implications of the U. S. strategic posture, which maintains three distinct nuclear deterrents in land-based missiles, sea-based missiles, and bombers. "I approach the hearings with an open mind about what we should do" Muskie said. He added, however, that he had questions as to "whether our current deterrence systems should not be altered to emphasize the types of weapons that do not fuel an endless arms race."

Senator Muskie expressed disappointment that Secretary of Defense, Melvin Laird and Deputy Secretary of Defense, David Packard could not appear before the Subcommittee. The Senator commented that "These hearings will explore decisions that will determine whether the arms race will accelerate during the next decade, wasting billions of dollars and perhaps undermining our security. For this reason, I had hoped the Secretary of Defense could appear to discuss the impact of his Department's budget on the prospect of a continued upwards spiral of weapons spending."

!ORE

The witnesses will be:

Wednesday, June 16

Admiral Thomas H. Moorer
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Dr. John S. Foster Jr.
Director, Defense Research & Engineering

Dr. Herbert York
Former science advisor to President Eisenhower

Dr. Carl Kaysen
Former Assistant to President Kennedy

Thursday, June 17

Dr. Charles M. Herzfeld
Former Director of Advanced Research Projects
Agency, Department of Defense (ARPA)

Dr. John P. Craven
Former Chief Scientist of the Polaris Project

Dr. Marvin Goldberger
Chairman, Federation of American Scientists

Mr. Fred Hoffman
Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for
Systems Analysis

Honorable Joseph Clark
United States Senator