



INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

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# UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

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**AUGUST 27, 1979** 

The Honorable Barry M. Goldwater United States Senate

Dear Senator Goldwater:

In response to your letter of May 23, 1979, we have obtained updated information on the costs of the administration's efforts to inform the public on the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT II). In an earlier report to you (ID-79-24, March 16, 1979), we explained that the administration's public information activities relating to SALT II Accounts were centered in the Department of State and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) and had cost about \$600,000 in 1978. For the first 6 months of 1979, expenditures were about \$624,000, thus bringing the administration's overall costs for SALT II public affairs activities to about \$1.2 million for the 18-month period. Enclosures I and II provide a detailed breakdown of costs.

As described in our earlier report, the Department of State and ACDA use a variety of means for keeping the public informed, including furnishing officials for speaking engagements, arranging conferences, preparing and distributing publications, and providing interviews and press releases for the media while the nature of these activities has basically remained unchanged, the level at which they are carried out has increased as discussed in enclosure III.

During the 6-month period ending June 30, 1979, State Department and ACDA officials participated in over 650 speaking engagements before local groups and conferences in 48 States and the District of Columbia. There were 28 conferences and mini-conferences, cosponsored by the State Department, ACDA, and local organizations. Department of Defense officials spoke at four of these conferences.

In recent months, the White House Office has assumed a greater role in the administration's SALT II public information efforts. // However, the White House Office could not estimate salary costs for its staff involved in these activities, stating that: "No records have been kept which would provide any reasonable estimate of what portion of an individual's time was spent on SALT II and therefore, no reliable cost data can be computed."

506235 [10304] ID-79-50 Letter Report (465420)

Your May 23 letter also requested information on SALT II mailings sent by the White House to various organizations and individuals around the country. Although various units within the White House Office sent out mailings relating to SALT II, detailed information was provided for only the Office of Media Liaison. Between January 20, 1977, and June 27, 1979, that Office distributed about 15,300 SALT II-related documents at a cost of about \$3,000. These documents, which included SALT II background reports, speeches, and booklets, were sent primarily to daily newspapers, columnists, radio and television stations, and congressional staffs, Enclosure IV lists the subject matter of the documents and the quantities distributed.

Additional costs identified by the White House Office for mailings by other units totaled about \$10,000 and represented expenditures for document preparation, binding, and postage and handling. In other related activities, the White House has sponsored nine conferences or briefing sessions for congressional and public opinion leaders with attendance ranging from about 35 to 235 guests. Nonsalary costs associated with these conferences totaled about \$6,000.

It should be noted that all cost and statistical information presented in this report was furnished by the agencies. Although we obtained general explanations concerning the methodology used in preparing the information and discussed the report contents with agency officials, we did not verify the data provided.

As arranged with your office, unless you publicly announce its contents earlier, we plan no further distribution of this report until 15 days from the date of issue. At that time, we will send copies to the Secretaries of State and Defense, the Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and the Special Assistant to the President for Administration.

Sincerely yours,

**j.** K. Fasick Director

Enclosures - 4

# THE PUBLIC ABOUT SALT II JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30, 1979

Department/agency (note a)	Salary ( <u>note b</u> )	Travel	Miscel- laneous ( <u>note c</u> )	<u>Total</u>
Department of State:				
Bureau of Public Affairs Bureau of European Affairs (SALT	\$ 88,660	\$ 46 <b>,</b> 766	\$ 66,942	\$202,368
Working Group) Office of the	81,262	27,448	28,503	137,213
Counselor Other bureaus	11,602 6,624	5,453	1,000	12,602 12,077
Total	188,148	79,667	96,445	364,260
Arms Control and Disarmament Agency: Office of Public				
Affairs Other offices	149,126 41,580	3,839 8,513	9,245	162,210 50,093
Total	190,706	12,352	9,245	212,303
Department of Defense	3,043	26,259	-	29,302
The White House Office (note d)	<u>3,566</u>	88	14,429	18,083
Total	\$385,463	\$118,366	\$ <u>120,119</u>	\$623 <b>,</b> 948

a/ All cost data provided by the respective department or agency.

b/ Salary costs do not include fringe benefits.

c/ Miscellaneous costs include expenses for such things as office supplies, equipment, and reproduction of materials. Printing and publications represent about \$90,000 of these costs.

d/ Salary costs for the White House Office are for document preparation only. The White House Office stated that no reliable salary cost data could be computed for staff members involved in SALT II public affairs activities.

# THE PUBLIC ABOUT SALT II JANUARY 1,1978 - JUNE 30, 1979

Department/agency (note a)	Salary ( <u>note</u> b)	<u>Travel</u>	Miscel- laneous ( <u>note c</u> )	<u>Total</u>
Department of State: Bureau of Public Affairs Bureau of European Affairs (SALIT	\$200,755	\$ 83,212	\$108,577	\$392,544
Working Group) Office of the	170,065	43,343	48,654	262,062
Counselor Other bureaus	25,656 16,836	1,030 12,242	1,000	27,686 29,078
Total	413,312	139,827	158,231	711,370
Arms Control and Disarmament Agency: Office of Public	241 070	11 005	20 707	275 (01
Affairs Other offices	341,879 71,580	11,005 13,283	22 <b>,</b> 797	375,681 <u>84,863</u>
Total	413,459	24,288	22,797	460,544
Department of Defense	4,096	30,393	-	34,489
The White House Office (note d)	3,566	88	14,978	18,632
Total	\$834,433	\$194,596	\$196,006	\$1,225,035

a/ All cost data provided by the respective department or agency.

b/ Salary costs do not include fringe benefits.

c/ Miscellaneous costs include expenses for such things as office supplies, equipment, and reproduction of materials. Printing and publications represent about \$147,000 of these costs.

d/ Salary costs for the White House Office are for document preparation only. The White House Office stated that no reliable salary cost data could be computed for staff members involved in SALT II public affairs activities.

#### SALT II PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

After almost 7 years of negotiations, the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks were concluded in Vienna, Austria, on June 18, 1979, with President Carter and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev signing the treaty limiting strategic nuclear arms. With the release of the final treaty text and subsequent ratification hearings before the Senate, the media has given increasing attention to SALT II issues. The administration has also intensified its public information activities in the area.

For the first 6 months of 1979, the Department of State and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) spent approximately \$577,000 on SALT II public information activities compared to about \$600,000 in 1978. The Department of Defense, while maintaining a peripheral role in these activities, spent approximately \$29,000 during the first 6 months of 1979, compared to \$5,000 in 1978. Defense Department spending was attributed entirely to the cost of furnishing 6 Department officials to speak at 16 separate engagements around the country, including 4 State Department-sponsored conferences.

The arrangement between the State Department and ACDA for coordinating SALT II public affairs activities remains basically unchanged, with the Office of the Counselor, State Department, providing general oversight and guidance. However, State Department officials noted that the role of the White House in coordinating the overall public information effort has expanded.

A brief overview of SALT II public affairs activities carried out by the State Department and ACDA from January 1 through June 30, 1979, is presented below. General information on the activities in these agencies was provided in our March 16, 1979, report (ID-79-24). As the nature of these activities has not changed, this enclosure focuses on updating cost and statistical information previously provided.

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Department of State reported it had spent \$364,260 on SALT II public information activities during the first half of 1979. Most of these activities were centered in the Department's Bureau of Public Affairs and the SALT Working Group, an office within the Bureau of European Affairs.

#### The Bureau of Public Affairs

The Bureau of Public Affairs focuses its primary efforts on six priority public affairs issues including SALT information activities. The Bureau carries out its SALT activities through (1) programing Department and ACDA officials to speak before groups and organizations, (2) preparing and distributing publications, and (3) arranging media activities. The Bureau accounted for \$202,368 of the State Department's SALT II public affairs expenditures during the period.

From January through June 30, 1979, speakers were furnished through the Bureau for 525 engagements in 48 States and the District of Columbia. A total of 191 trips were made, with Bureau-sponsored speakers often participating in several engagements while in travel status. These officials addressed numerous audiences including academic groups, religious organizations, civic clubs, and conferences arranged by the SALT Working Group. Bureau speakers also participated in 452 media events, which consisted of television, radio, and newspaper interviews in Washington, D.C. and around the country. By comparison, updated information provided by the State Department showed that in calendar year 1978, Bureau speakers participated in 540 speaking engagements during 148 trips and in 577 media events.

During the first half of 1979, the Bureau prepared 20 SALT II-related documents, including reports, pamphlets, and speeches. In total, the Bureau distributed approximately 507,200 copies of these documents. Publications included "SALT II Agreement," "SALT II-The Basic Guide," and "SALT II-The Reason Why."

## SALT Working Group

The SALT Working Group is primarily involved in developing and cosponsoring conferences throughout the United States on the subject of U.S. security and the Soviet challenge. As shown in our prior report, the Group cosponsored nine conferences from June through December 1978. For the first 6 months of 1979, the Group cosponsored 11 major conferences in 11 States. The agenda for the conferences has remained the same, including presentations on Soviet affairs and strategic theory, SALT II provisions, and SALT's impact on U.S. security.

Detailed below is information on conference locations and agency personnel attending.

## Employees attending

Location	Date	<u>State</u>	ACDA	Defense	Total
Nashville, Tenn. Minneapolis, Minn.	2/01/79 2/22/79	7	1_	1 -	11 <u>a</u> / 7
Indianapolis, Ind. Atlanta, Ga.	2/27/79 3/15/79	7	3 1	1	11
Birmingham, Ala. Des Moines, Iowa	3/22/79 4/20/79	7	3 2	1	11
Albuquerque, N.M. Richmond, Va. Kansas City, Mo.	4/25/79 6/12/79 6/26/79	7	4	-	9 11 9
Denver, Colo. Cheyenne, Wyo.	6/26/79 6/27/79	7	1 2		8 9
Total	-, <b>-</b> , , , , ,	80	21	3	104

<u>a</u>/ Conference was also attended by the Vice President and several members of his staff.

In addition to the above conferences, in the first 6 months of 1979, the SALT Working Group cosponsored 15 "miniconferences" compared to 1 in 1978. At these miniconferences, from 1 to 4 Government personnel discussed SALT II and related issues before audiences averaging 100 persons. The miniconferences were cosponsored by local civic groups which furnished one or more local speakers to participate in the program. The local organizations provided most of the administrative support for the miniconferences, and the State Department's Bureau of Public Affairs generally paid travel costs of the Government participants.

Following is a summary of the dates, locations, and number of agency personnel attending the mini-conferences.

## Employees attending

Location	Date	State	ACDA	<u>Defense</u>	Total
Detroit, Mich.	2/08/79	1	1	_	2
Wichita, Kan.	2/12/79	3	-	1	4
Leesburg, Fla.	2/16/79	_	1	-	1
Charlottesville,					
٧a.	2/28/79	1	1	-	2
St. Louis, Mo.	4/06/79	3	-	-	3
New Orleans, La.	4/20/79	4	-	-	4
Hartford, Conn.	4/26/79	1	1	-	2
Minneapolis, Minn.	4/26/79	1	_	-	1.
Springfield, Mass.	4/27/79	1	1	-	2
Amarillo, Tex.	5/01/79	2	-	<u> </u>	2
Westport, Conn.	5/06/79	1	-	-	1
Auburn, Ala.	5/24/79	1	1	-	2.
Terre Haute, Ind.	6/12/79	1	1	-	2
New London, Conn.	6/15/79	3	-	-	3
Memphis, Tenn.	6/21/79	_2		-	_2
Total		<u>25</u>	<del>_7</del>	1	<u>33</u>

According to a SALT Working Group spokesperson, the Group has plans for 10 additional conferences and 3 mini-conferences between July 1 and October 31, 1979.

#### ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY

Within the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, the Office of Public Affairs is responsible for SALT II public information activities. This Office coordinates speaking engagements of ACDA officers, including the Director, and works closely with the Department of State. From January 1 through June 30, 1979, ACDA spent \$212,303 on SALT II public information activities.

--Public speaking engagements - In addition to the officers who participated in engagements arranged by the State Department, ACDA furnished speakers for about 140 speaking engagements in 21 States and the Washington, D.C. area. By comparison, agency speakers participated in about 150 engagements in 1978.

--SALT conferences/briefings - ACDA and the State Department jointly sponsored 2 conferences in Washington for 70 representatives of scientific societies and publications and for about 100 academicians from universities and research organizations. ACDA also organized briefings in Washington for former national commanders of major veterans' organizations, the American Legion, the Executive Board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and former Members of Congress.

- --Publications In addition to contributing funds to the layout and design costs of a State Department publication on SALT II, ACDA issued an 8-page document, "SALT II--Glossary of Terms" and reproduced 500 copies each of 9 texts of major speeches delivered by the Director, ACDA.
- --SALT Working Group conferences ACDA personnel attended 10 of 11 conferences arranged by the SALT Working Group and 7 of the 15 mini-conferences.

# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MEDIA LIAISON SALT II-RELATED MAILINGS JANUARY 20, 1977 - JUNE 27, 1979

Date of mailing	Subject matter	Estimated quantity distributed
4/07/77	Strategic Arms Limitation Talks Background Report	2,015
7/15/77	B-1 Bomber, SALT Background Report	4,300
7/12/78	The SALT Process Booklet	1,960
3/07/79	Speech by Charles Duncan, Deputy Secretary of Defense	533
4/05/79	Speech by Harold Brown, Secretary of Defense	268
5/04/79	President Carter's Speech to the American Newspaper Association	577
5/09/79	SALT II - In Perspective Background Report	643
5/10/79	SALT II - In Perspective Background Report	4,700
5/24/79	SALT II - In Perspective Background Report	351
	Total	<u>15,347</u>