Jim Leonard

MAR 21 1982

Time running out for CW arms control?

Dear Jim -

I fully understand the last delicate elements of your letter to the N.Y. Times.

Unhappily, verification is in my view a more serious obstacle than even. Verification by invitation - which is about all there was in the BW treaty - has just about broken down in the face of Soviet intransigence about Sverdlovsk. They plainly don't give a hoot what we think! and the charade of the "UN Investigation" on the Thai border gives little hope for confidence in that sphere (UN as investigator).

Without some better demonstration from the USSR that they have some interest in answering our anxieties I don't see any possibility of a CW treaty; and I am reluctantly concluding that we had better look after the long lead time elements of repair of a nearly unusable CW stockpile for retaliatory deterrence.

Isn't it time that we could effect some positive step on the Sov. side?

Have you any idea what we could reasonably do to get this point across to them, assuming they believe an effective CW disarmament is in their interest.

I hope we can talk about this soon.

Yours.

John.