

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 27, 1983

Mr. A. DiAngelo, Coordinator
S. I. Council for Peace & Justice
172 Coventry Road
Staten Island, New York 10304

Dear Mr. DiAngelo:

Thank you for taking the time to contact my office.

I share your desire to reduce the danger of nuclear war. While I support a policy of peace through strength, I am dedicated to the proposition that we must pursue arms limitation negotiations to minimize tensions whenever we can achieve a fair, verifiable agreement.

During action on the Continuing Resolution, Congress cut \$988 million for MX missile production due to serious questions regarding the basing mode. The President proposed Closely Spaced Basing as the method for deploying the MX. My colleagues and I had concerns which were not addressed during the short time available to deal with the question. We felt that hearings should be held so that this vital issue could be explored in depth before we committed substantial amounts of the taxpayers' money to the production of the missile.

We established a procedure to make a final decision on MX production this spring. The President has appointed a new, bipartisan commission to re-examine the basing mode issue. They must report before we vote on the issue. After they file their report, the President and Congress will examine the alternatives and make a decision on the future of the MX program.

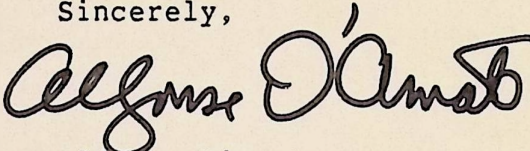
I am concerned over the serious negative impact a failure to find an acceptable basing mode for the MX may have on our entire range of arms control negotiations. Since all of these negotiations are interlinked, the termination of the MX program may make it much more difficult for us to achieve fair, stable and verifiable arms limitation agreements.

My colleagues and I will carefully examine all of the evidence relating to the MX and its basing mode. There will be a vote on the future of the program this spring, after thorough debate. We must make a decision which is economical, which supports our foreign policy and which protects our national security.

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I appreciate the opportunity to address your concerns.

Sincerely,



Alfonse D'Amato
United States Senator

AD:tg