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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

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July 1, 2010

The Honorable Bob Corker
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Corker:

I appreciate the letter that you and your colleagues sent yesterday regarding hearings on the New START Treaty. I take it in the spirit of bipartisanship with which we have addressed this important issue throughout the weeks of hearings. We all take our responsibility to provide advice and consent seriously on every treaty that comes before the Senate.

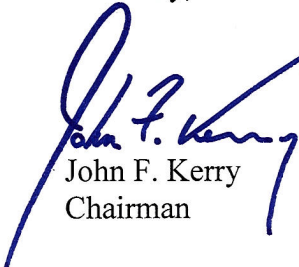
I believe that the schedule of hearings we have conducted for reviewing the treaty meets the needs of all committee members to have their questions answered. We have certainly endeavored to present a range of witnesses and points of view. Further, Senator Lugar and I have made clear from the beginning that the executive branch will be expected to answer every question for the record in a thorough manner. We are confident that they will do so and we are confident that the committee's action will be based on a comprehensive understanding of all the issues.

I certainly agree that the National Intelligence Estimate and the State Department Compliance Report are critical to our full understanding of the treaty's impact. Therefore, I am pleased to report to you that these documents are currently available for your review by contacting the chief clerk, Susan Oursler. In addition, we are planning a closed hearing for members on the NIE upon return from the Fourth of July recess. The State Department Verifiability Report should be available in advance of our hearing on the NIE and the other reports.

As for the schedules of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, those panels have a responsibility to act in a timely manner and we will welcome their input. We believe, now that the NIE has been received, these committees can meet our schedule.

Thank you for your concerns and I look forward to completing this process as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


John F. Kerry
Chairman