

December 9, 2011

Senator Mark Kirk
524 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kirk,

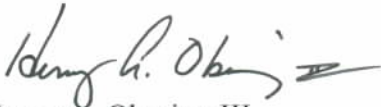
Thank you for your letter requesting my views on whether the United States should provide the Russian Federation access to classified missile defense data or technology.

I believe America should continue to make clear that our missile defenses in Europe are aimed at the growing dangers posed by Iran. One way to do this is by advancing U.S.-Russia missile defense cooperation that reassures Russian leaders without compromising our own national security.

The U.S. can pursue meaningful missile defense cooperation with Russia without sharing any classified data or technology. In fact, I participated in a working group with several retired Russian officials and military officers last year that developed such a model for cooperation. Therefore, I would strongly recommend that there not be any provision of classified data or technology to the Russian Federation just to achieve missile defense cooperation for cooperation's sake.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry A. Obering III", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Henry A. Obering III
Lt Gen (ret), USAF