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FRED C. IKLÉ
HEAD, SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Stanford Arms-Control Faculty Group
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Dear Professor Lederberg:

Thank you for your interesting letter of February 12, with attachments. I don't know whether I already sent you the annotated version of my Foreign Affairs article, so I am enclosing a copy.

I agree with you regarding the importance of command and control for sea based deterrent forces. I have nothing really new to add on this rather technical subject, beyond the few sentences in my article, and the footnote.

Regarding the Genocide Convention, we seem to have been thinking along similar lines. However, I would not recommend that our current strategic doctrine become an argument against ratification of the Genocide Convention, or even (as you seem to propose) a reason for qualifying our acceptance of this Convention. As I stated in my piece, I would instead favor a gradual moving away in our strategy from the emphasis on the mass killing of populations.

You are right in contending that the risk of irrationality is a residual problem that cannot quite be removed. I believe, though, that it can be mitigated by reducing the emphasis on speed (thus curtailing opportunities for lower level, irrational acts with catastrophic consequences) and by moving plans for attacks on cities more into the background, as a last resort deterrent. I would disagree with your postscript that "the MAD logic" is more effective against the reciprocal fear of a first strike than any alternative strategy. We should be able to develop alternative strategies and postures that are just as safe, if not safer, against this problem.

I, too, am looking forward to seeing you during my sabbatical year at the Center in Palo Alto.

Sincerely yours,

Fred Ikle

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Enclosure