

President still considers the relationship with Russia the prime factor in the shaping of U.S. foreign policy. He revealed that it was his direct personal intervention with Soviet leaders that made possible the success of the Berlin negotiations and led to the decision to hold a summit in Moscow this May. He looks forward to that as an opportunity for talks on arms limitation and the Middle East. "The U.S.S.R.," said Mr. Nixon, "has the choice: whether the current period of relaxation is to be merely another offensive tactic or truly an opportunity to develop an international system

tional concerns. With the Republic of China, we shall maintain our friendship, our diplomatic ties and our defense commitment. The ultimate relationship between Taiwan and the mainland is not a matter for the United States to decide. A peaceful resolution of this problem by the parties would do much to reduce tensions in the Far East."

Other key passages in Mr. Nixon's report dealt with:

Japan. "We recognize that some of our actions during the past year placed the Japanese Government in a difficult position. We recognize that our actions have

now for a serious dialogue with India on the future of our relations . . . If India has an interest in maintaining balanced relationships with all major powers, we are prepared to respond constructively. Of interest to us also will be the posture that South Asia's most powerful country now adopts toward its neighbors on the subcontinent."

The Arms Race. "A consensus is developing on certain essential elements" in the strategic-arms limitation talks with the Soviets, Mr. Nixon reported, and it seemed clear that he hopes to have a preliminary agreement signed before or during his Moscow talks. For, he warned, "We are approaching a crucial turning point in our strategic-arms programs. If the Soviet Union continues to expand strategic forces, compensating U.S. programs will be mandatory. The preferable alternative would be a combination of mutual restraint and an agreement in SALT. But under no circumstances will I permit the further erosion of the strategic balance with the U.S.S.R."



Nixon after 'state of the world' radio broadcast: Trumpeting the achievements

resting on the stability of relations between the superpowers." But, he cautioned that the differences between the two nations remain profound. He wrote:

"Americans consider tensions in international relations abnormal and yearn to see them resolved as quickly as possible. We tend to believe that goodwill is a principal ingredient for their resolution and that our own goodwill is beyond question. We assume that if tensions persist, it is proof that our adversary is implacably hostile to us. . . .

"The U.S.S.R. tends to view external tensions as the inevitable corollary of conflicting social systems. Soviet diplomacy therefore is prepared to accept international tension as normal and, too often, to view negotiations with the United States as a form of harsh competition from which only one side can possibly gain advantage."

China. The President noted that while the U.S. and Russia have already moved from dialogue to negotiations, the task in China's case is "how to replace estrangement with a dialogue . . . Both Chinese and American policies could be much less rigid if we had no need to consider each other permanent enemies. Over the longer term there need be no clashes between our fundamental na-

accelerated the Japanese trend toward more autonomous policies. We regret the former, but we could not do otherwise. We welcome the latter . . . It would be shortsighted indeed to exchange strong ties with a crucial ally for some mitigation of the hostility of a dedicated opponent . . . We intend that Japan shall remain our most important Asian ally."

Vietnam. "Vietnam no longer distracts our attention from the fundamental issues of global diplomacy or diverts our energies from priorities at home." As for the search for a negotiated peace, "since the last private meeting in September, we have essentially met all of Hanoi's proposals on military issues except the requirement that we withdraw equipment and cease our aid to South Vietnam . . . In our view there is only one fundamental issue left—will we collude with our enemies to overturn our friends? Will we impose a future on the Vietnamese people that the other side has been unable to gain militarily or politically? This we shall never do."

South Asia. "Pakistan remains a close friend . . . The United States, of course, has a tradition of friendship with India as well as with Pakistan. Our strong interest in Indian democracy and progress is not diminished . . . We are prepared

THE SENATE: **NEWSWEEK**
Where Is Everybody?

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield has been complaining to reporters for months about the absenteeism and "lallygagging" of his fellow senators, and last week the mild-mannered Montanan finally took his ire to the Senate floor—twice. "The record of this body over the past month is, to put it mildly, abominable," he told the sparsely populated chamber. "Sometimes I wonder just how much of a conscience this body has. Sometimes I wonder how . . . individual senators can think of themselves foremost and the Senate secondarily."

The figures bear Mansfield out. Senate attendance since reconvening last month has averaged 78 per cent, down 1 per cent from 1970's record—which was the lowest in memory. As might be guessed in an election year, the five Democratic senators running for the Presidential nomination—Hartke, Humphrey, Jackson, McGovern, Muskie—have all missed more than half the roll-call votes this session. But so too have Senators Mike Gravel, John Tunney, John Sparkman and Adlai Stevenson III—and Warren Magnuson, whose wife is ill, has yet to put in a single appearance. Karl Mundt, disabled by a stroke, has been unable to appear for 26 months (NEWSWEEK, Feb. 14). By way of independent laboratory verification, a NEWSWEEK correspondent plucked the names of eight senators from a hat one working day last week. The eight: John Tunney and Edward Kennedy (both skiing in Switzerland), Lee Metcalf (at home in Montana), Howard Cannon (touring Germany), William Spong (off lecturing), Abraham Ribicoff (ditto), Frank Church (at home with an honest case of flu) and John Tower (reviewing the Sixth Fleet in the balmy Mediterranean).