

regime there and we ought to be continually trying to engage them in political dialogue and discussions in order to try to ease those tensions which lie back of the arms race. So these are the three areas I would like to throw into the start of this informal discussion. Thank you very much.

Chairman: Thank you very much, Mr. David Steel. No doubt we will be returning in the course of our discussions to quite a number of the issues you have put forward. The next speaker on our program tonight is Helmut Sonnenfeldt. Mr. Sonnenfeldt is a visiting scholar at the Brookings Institute in Washington. He has served as counsellor and director of the Office of Research and Analysis for the USSR and Eastern Europe in the United States State Department and was a senior staff member of the National Security Council for some years. I am pleased to welcome Mr. Sonnenfeldt because I used to see him quite frequently when I was in this job in the 70s, when he and I met frequently at international meetings. I had the pleasure of noting his presence on the program, and I am sure that he will make a very interesting analysis as he approaches these problems from a more detached vantage point than he did in his earlier period in the State Department and working as he did so closely with Mr. Henry Kissenger.

Helmut Sonnenfeldt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am almost tempted by Mr. Steel's comments not to be detached (or some of them at least), but I will try and stick to the three broad topics in the program. I do want to make one opening observation. This past week, there was a thirtieth anniversary of something that was not noted much if at all, and that was the first explosion of a workable hydrogen bomb -- by the Soviet Union. Something that wasn't done by the