Marchetti, Victor
CIA Dir Turner, Adm.
~~SALT~~
P - Stamberg, Susan
(original 1.04)

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FOR   PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM   All Things Considered...   STATION   WETA Radio
                                                            NPR Network

DATE   May 18, 1979   5:00 PM   CITY   Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT   Interview with Victor Marchetti

SUSAN STAMBERG: Hassles within the President's own family.   And now, according to columnists Evans and Novak, hassles for Jimmy Carter within his Administration.

The reporters say Carter's former Annapolis schoolmate, now his CIA Director, Stansfield Turner, has jolted the White House. Turner, who Evans and Novak say is the most unpopular CIA chief in history, has apparently prepared an elaborate brief, still secret, that puts a serious crimp in the Administration's strategy to get Senate ratification for the SALT II treaty.

In the brief, Turner reportedly says the United States cannot be sure that Russia lives up to its end of the treaty.   In effect, the CIA chief says Russia can cheat on the treaty and we cannot verify.

Evans and Novak report White House aides reacted with apoplexy, but the news did not surprise former CIA staffer Victor Marchetti.

VICTOR MARCHETTI: First of all, I think you have to understand that both sides can cheat in verification.   This is nothing unique or peculiar to the Soviets.   We can do it too.

I think that Admiral Turner is taking a political stance rather than an intelligence position.   Mr. Turner, since he's no longer in the Navy, has come to the conclusion that Mr. Carter is just going to barely survive his four years in Congress, and he is now preparing the ground for himself to survive with a more conservative democratic administration, or perhaps even with a Republican administration.