

news release

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Congressman Edward P. Boland (D-Mass), Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, today issued the following statement:

"Today the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is releasing the declassified record of executive session hearings held last July on the subject of Soviet active measures. The hearings were conducted at the request of Mr. Young of Florida, a member of the Committee.

"The material released today again demonstrates what we have known for a long time -- that the Soviet Union utilizes considerable amounts of time, money and manpower attempting, both covertly and overtly, to influence individuals, organizations, and events in the United States and around the world. To keep the Congress and the public informed of such activities is important, and I commend Mr. Young for taking the lead in this area.

"It is equally important, I believe, to reassure the Congress and the public that, in the view of the FBI, Soviet active measures have had, at best, minimal impact on U.S. decision makers. That conclusion was stated by the FBI during the July hearings.

"It is also important to point out that in neither the July hearings, nor in a classified FBI August report on the same subject, nor in any other material submitted to the Committee, has the FBI made an assessment, or drawn conclusions, as to whether Soviet agents have had any significant impact on the nuclear freeze movement.

"On the basis of my own review of the material submitted by the FBI, it is my personal assessment that Soviet agents have had no significant influence on the nuclear freeze movement. The bottom line is that the hearings provide no evidence that the Soviets direct, manage or manipulate the nuclear freeze movement."