The threat of communism and fascism was real and serious, and posed a grave danger to the United States and to the values of freedom and democracy that we hold dear. These ideologies sought to impose a totalitarian vision on society, and to crush all opposition through violence and terror. We could not afford to be complacent in the face of this threat, and must always be vigilant in protecting our democracy and in promoting the cause of freedom and justice around the world. Through a combination of military readiness, diplomacy, and economic pressure, we were able to contain the spread of these ideologies and to defend the American people and our way of life.