

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 20, 1969

National Security Decision Memorandum 3

TO: The Vice President
The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
The Administrator of the Agency for
International Development
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Director of the US Information Agency
The Director of the Office of Emergency
Preparedness

SUBJECT: The Direction, Coordination and Supervision of
Interdepartmental Activities Overseas

The Secretary of State is my principal foreign policy advisor. He is also responsible, in accordance with approved policy, for the execution of foreign policy. I have assigned to the Secretary of State authority and responsibility to the full extent permitted by law* for the overall direction, coordination and supervision of interdepartmental activities of the United States Government overseas. Such activities do not include those of United States military forces operating in the field where such forces are under the command of a United States area military commander, such other military activities as I elect as Commander-in-Chief to conduct through military channels, and activities which are internal to the execution and administration of the approved programs of a single department or agency and which are not of such a nature as to affect significantly the overall US overseas program in a country or region.

In discharging this authority and responsibility, the Secretary of State will be assisted by the NSC Interdepartmental Groups and the NSC Under Secretaries Committee, as constituted in NSDM 2 and in accordance with the procedures set forth therein.

* Including continuous supervision and general direction of economic assistance, military assistance and sales programs, as provided in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2-

Within the purview of this NSDM, the Secretary of State may delegate full powers of decision to the Under Secretary of State, as Executive Chairman of the NSC Under Secretaries Committee, subject to the right of a member who does not concur to request the referral of a matter to the NSC Review Committee or to the NSC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert McNamara". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the page.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PRESERVATION COPY