

**DECLASSIFIED**

**E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5**

*NSC/Soubers to Smith 09/06/2002*

**By *kan* Date 02/13/07**

**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506**

~~CONFIDENTIAL/EXDIS~~

November 6, 1969

National Security Decision Memorandum 32

TO:           The Secretary of State  
              The Secretary of Defense  
              The Secretary of The Interior  
              The Secretary of Agriculture  
              The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission  
              The Director of Central Intelligence  
              The Administrator, Agency for International Development

SUBJECT:    Water Development and Middle East Policy

With reference to the memorandum of September 9, 1969, from the Chairman of NSCIG/NEA to the Chairman of the NSC Review Group entitled "Desalting in the Near East--NSSM 30," the President has made the following decisions:

1.       He has agreed that decisions on broader policy for overall water development in the Near East should be deferred until early next year.
  
2.       He has approved the following Administration position on the Israeli desalting plant to be used with the Government of Israel and with appropriate Congressional Committees:
  - a.       Budgetary constraints make it impossible for the Administration to proceed now with plans to build a desalting plant in Israel.
  
  - b.       Budgetary considerations apart, the Administration believes that intermediate experimentation with new technology is necessary before a large operating plant can be built anywhere. The Administration believes that there are compelling advantages in doing this work in the U.S.

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c. The Administration is keeping open the possibility of later cooperation in the Israeli project.

d. The Administration intends to press ahead with research in desalting technology and will insure close cooperation with Israeli technicians.

3. He has asked that the Director, Bureau of the Budget in cooperation with the Science Advisor to the President coordinate a recommendation on whether a module to test the new technology should now be built in the U. S.

The Secretary of State will coordinate appropriate actions to inform the Government of Israel and the Congressional Committees concerned.

  
Henry A. Kissinger

Copies to: The Director, Bureau of the Budget  
The Science Advisor to the President