

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

*Nsc/Spubers to Smith 09/06/2002*

By LR Date 02/13/07

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET/NODIS/SALT~~

July 2, 1971

(New First Page)

National Security Decision Memorandum 117

TO: The Members of the National Security Council  
The Attorney General  
The Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency  
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Instructions for Strategic Arms Limitation Talks  
at Helsinki (SALT V)

Having considered the discussions and recommendations of the National Security Council, I have decided on the United States position for presentation at Helsinki (SALT V), as detailed in the attached statement.

The Delegation should prepare draft language of provisions incorporating the United States position. The Delegation should proceed on the basis that there will be an agreement limiting strategic defensive weapons with a parallel agreement limiting strategic offensive weapons. The agreement dealing with defensive weapons must contain (1) a cross-reference to the agreement limiting offensive weapons, and (2) provisions requiring continued negotiations on offensive limitations. The language prepared by the Delegation must be returned to the White House for approval prior to presentation to the Soviet delegation. The final form of what is agreed (e. g. treaty) will be determined later.

Pending approval and tabling of the written language, the Delegation may outline to the USSR the principal provisions of the United States position at the beginning of negotiations.

The negotiations on offensive systems and defensive systems must be conducted in parallel. However, at the discretion of the Chairman of the Delegation, there may be an initial period of two to three weeks when the negotiations concentrate on defensive systems. Thereafter, offensive systems must be considered equally and in parallel with defensive systems. Agreements on offensive and defensive systems must be concluded simultaneously.

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The Delegation should continue to negotiate an agreed text on Measures to Prevent Accidental War and indicate to the Soviet Delegation that we would prefer that this agreement be concluded simultaneously with agreements on the main areas of limitation (e. g. , ABM and offensive measures). Similarly, the Delegation should complete all preliminary work on the Washington-Moscow direct communications link with a view towards concluding this agreement simultaneously with the main agreement.

We can consider separate agreements on Accidents and the communications link; the decision to do so, however, will be taken in light of the general trend of negotiations in Helsinki.

Previous directives concerning the privacy of the talks and public comment on them are reaffirmed.



Attachment

cc: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
The Senior Members, U. S. Delegation to  
the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks