

DECLASSIFIED

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NSC/Soubers to Smith 09/06/2002

By Jug Date 02/17/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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September 13, 1971

National Security Decision Memorandum 132

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Modification of SSBN Commitments to NATO

The President has approved the joint Department of State and Department of Defense proposal to modify the U.S. commitment of fleet ballistic missile submarines and missile warheads to NATO in light of the deployment of the Poseidon weapon system. Specifically, the United States will offer to:

-- Provide SACEUR with target assignment, alerting and missile release authority for 150 Poseidon RVs from alert Poseidon SSBNs, effective July 1, 1972, vice the current arrangement for the same authority for 48 Polaris missiles deployed aboard three SSBNs in the Mediterranean. The Director of Strategic Target Planning will perform the detailed targeting function based on a list of SACEUR-designated targets and inform SACEUR of those targets covered by NATO-designated Poseidon RVs.

-- Deploy the 150 SACEUR-assigned Poseidon RVs in missiles designated for NATO use aboard any number of alert U.S. SSBNs operating in CINCLANT's or USCINCEUR's area of responsibility.

-- Assign five Poseidon SSBNs to USCINCEUR which will be earmarked Category A (available to NATO within 48 hours) for SACEUR, and assign nineteen Category A and seven Category C SSBNs to CINCLANT which will be earmarked for SACLANT. Poseidon missiles (excluding the 150 RVs assigned to SACEUR) aboard the SSBNs earmarked for SACEUR and SACLANT will be targeted by the Director of Strategic Target Planning in the SIOP.

-- Maintain a minimum of three of the SSBNs assigned to USCINCEUR on patrol in the Mediterranean for the foreseeable future.

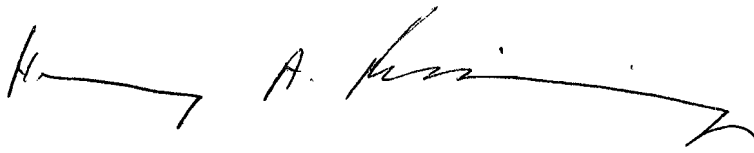
-- Pass operational command of earmarked Category A SSBNs to the appropriate NATO commander, either SACEUR or SACLANT,

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when specifically directed by appropriate U.S. authorities, normally upon the declaration of NATO reinforce alert.

It is to be understood that these commitments to NATO in no way infringe upon the current authority of the President of the United States with regard to missile release either in the NATO context or as a unilateral national action. The currently approved nuclear weapons safety rules for the Poseidon weapon system will remain in effect for those missiles assigned to NATO. The appropriate authorities aboard SSBNs which carry NATO-assigned missiles will be provided with the necessary command control and communications documentation required for alerting and launch of missiles in accordance with NATO authorization procedures. The Secretary of Defense shall insure that command and control arrangements are satisfactory and so inform the President.

The Secretaries of State and Defense, or their designated representatives, may proceed to approach the NATO Allies and make the offer described above in accordance with the scenario for Allied consultation attached. In making these approaches and discussing this offer nothing shall be said to our NATO Allies which could be construed to imply that additional Poseidon RVs may be offered to the Alliance in the future, for targeting, alerting and missile release authority. Any such proposals in the future shall be made only after approval by the President. It should be made clear to the Alliance that the commitment to maintain at least three SSBNs on patrol in the Mediterranean Sea may be revised in the future if the military situation or operational considerations so warrant, and that the number of SSBNs earmarked for NATO operational command is subject to national review and may be changed if future conditions make it necessary. However, any future revisions in these commitments will be made in conjunction with appropriate consultations with the Alliance.



Attachment: Scenario for Allied Consultation.