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E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

NSC/Soubers to Smith 9/06/2002

By CA Date 10/02/06

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

July 7, 1972

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National Security Decision Memorandum 174

TO: The Secretary of Defense  
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission

SUBJECT: FY73-75 Nuclear Weapons Stockpile<sup>0</sup>

The President has approved the proposed Nuclear Weapons Stockpile for end FY75, and the proposed adjusted stockpiles for end FY73 and end FY74, submitted by the Department of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission on May 23, 1972.

Accordingly, the President approves a total adjusted stockpile of [redacted] for the end of FY73 and a total adjusted stockpile of [redacted] for the end of FY74. The President also approves a total stockpile of [redacted] for the end of FY75. This will mean a planned production by the Atomic Energy Commission of [redacted] and a planned retirement of [redacted] during FY75, resulting in a net increase of [redacted] during FY75 from the adjusted FY74 stockpile.

*Statute  
42 USC  
2162  
of Atomic  
Energy  
Act*

The nuclear weapons stockpile levels and composition approved by the President represent authorized ceilings, not to be exceeded except as provided below or otherwise approved by the President. The ceilings are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, budgetary actions or policy decisions which could affect our future nuclear weapons posture.

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Partially Declassified/Released on 11/8/99  
under provisions of E.O. 12958  
by R. Soubers, National Security Council  
F88-995

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The President directs the production and retirement of those quantities of atomic weapons and atomic weapons parts necessary to achieve and maintain the approved stockpiles, as well as the production of the additional parts of nuclear weapons necessary for transfer to the United Kingdom pursuant to the agreement for cooperation.

The President authorizes the Atomic Energy Commission in coordination with the Department of Defense to initiate production of such long lead-time nuclear warhead parts as may be necessary to prepare for FY76 production of warheads required to support approved and planned Department of Defense forces with nuclear warhead systems approved by the President.

The President authorizes the Atomic Energy Commission to produce and transfer to the Department of Defense parts of nuclear weapons, not containing special nuclear material, as may be agreed by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense. These parts may be used in nuclear weapons, training programs, research and development, or production.

The President authorizes the Atomic Energy Commission in coordination with the Department of Defense to make such changes in the production and/or retirement of nuclear warheads in FY73-75 as may be necessary to reflect changes in Atomic Energy Commission material availabilities, production/retirement capabilities, or quality assurance requirements, or as a result of related changes in military requirements, so long as the quantity of warheads involved in any single action does not exceed [REDACTED]. The President further authorizes the Atomic Energy Commission, in coordination with the Department of Defense, to make changes in the production and/or retirement of nuclear warheads in FY73-75 as may be necessary to reflect changes (not to exceed  $\pm 10$  percent) in each year in strategic offensive, strategic defensive, tactical and fleet anti-sub marine/anti-air warfare warhead totals as may be required by the Department of Defense because of changes in military requirements or adjustments in delivery assets. Any changes indicative of a major or significant shift in defense policy, military capability or Atomic Energy Commission production capabilities will be submitted for the President's approval.

*Statute  
42 USC  
2162 of  
Atomic  
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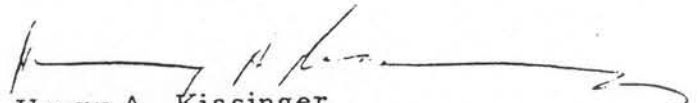
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The President authorizes the Department of Defense to designate as retired and, in coordination with the Atomic Energy Commission, to retain custody of nuclear warheads for a period of up to one year from the date the designation is made if necessary to reduce Atomic Energy Commission requirements for weapons storage during periods of high production workload at Atomic Energy Commission assembly facilities.

The FY74-76 stockpile approval request should be submitted with the Department of Defense nuclear weapons deployments request in February 1973. In addition to the information and displays of the type contained in Enclosures 1, 2 and 3 of the stockpile approval request, the rationale should be presented for any new weapon systems to be introduced in the stockpile during the period of the request. Total program costs and production schedules should be included.

  
Henry A. Kissinger

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