

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

NSC/Soubers to Smith 09/06/2002
By hwr Date 06/27/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

~~SECRET~~

May 3, 1973

National Security Decision Memorandum 215

TO: The Secretary of State
 The Acting Secretary of Defense
 The Secretary of Commerce
 The Secretary of Agriculture
 The Secretary of Transportation
 The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
 The Director, National Science Foundation

SUBJECT: US-Soviet Bilateral Issues

The President has reviewed the response to NSSM 176 together with subsequent agency submissions relating to the desirability and possibility of new bilateral agreements between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The President has directed that the following guidance shall be followed in discussions and negotiations between U. S. and Soviet representatives on the subjects of agriculture, transportation, oceanography, urban and community development, exchanges and cultural relations and civil aviation. The President emphasizes that such negotiations should be conducted on their merits, and that the United States should avoid proposing concessions solely in order to expedite agreement.

--Agriculture. The President has directed that the United States explore with the Soviet Union the possibility of a U. S. -Soviet agreement on cooperation in the field of agriculture. Bearing in mind the work already accomplished in this area, the President directs the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Department of State, to arrange for bilateral talks with the appropriate Soviet Ministries as soon as mutually convenient. These negotiations should have as their objective the development of a draft bilateral agreement for further consideration by the U. S. and Soviet governments. The Secretary of Agriculture is directed to submit a report on the status of these negotiations no later than June 4, 1973, for review by the President.

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--Transportation. Taking into account the growing U. S. -Soviet interest in the development of organizational arrangements for mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of transportation, the President directs the Secretary of Transportation, in coordination with the Department of State, to arrange for U. S. - Soviet bilateral talks as soon as mutually convenient to explore the possibility of a government-to-government agreement in this area. These negotiations should have as their objective the development of a draft bilateral agreement for further consideration by the U. S. and Soviet governments. The Secretary of Transportation is directed to submit a report on the status of these negotiations no later than June 4, 1973, for consideration by the President.

--Oceanography. The President has directed that the United States explore with the Soviet Union the possibility of a U. S. -Soviet agreement on cooperation in the field of oceanography. Accordingly, he directs the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Department of State, the National Science Foundation and other appropriate U. S. agencies, to arrange for U. S. -Soviet talks on this subject as soon as mutually convenient. These negotiations should have as their objective the development of a draft U. S. -Soviet bilateral agreement for further consideration by the U. S. and Soviet governments. The Secretary of Commerce is directed to submit a report on the status of these negotiations no later than June 4, 1973, for consideration by the President.

--Urban and Community Development. Taking into account the initial discussions of the Joint U. S. -Soviet Working Group on the Enhancement of the Urban Environment, the President directs the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to arrange for discussions on community development with the appropriate Soviet Ministries as soon as mutually convenient. These discussions should have as their objective a thorough assessment of the desirability of and the potential for government-to-government cooperation in this area. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development is directed to submit a report on the results of these discussions no later than June 4, 1973, for consideration by the President.

--Exchanges and Cultural Relations. The President has directed that the United States explore with the Soviet Union the possibility of augmenting the U. S. -Soviet Agreement on Exchanges and Cooperation in Scientific, Technical, Educational, Cultural and Other Fields. The President directs the Secretary of State to arrange for U. S. -Soviet talks on this subject as soon as mutually convenient. These negotiations should have as their objective the development of a draft augmented agreement, extending the duration and expanding the scope of the present agreement,

for further consideration by the U.S. and Soviet governments. The Secretary of State is directed to submit a report on the results of these negotiations no later than June 4, 1973, for consideration by the President.

--Civil Aviation. The President has directed that the United States explore with the Soviet Union the possibility of augmenting the U.S. - Soviet Agreement on Civil Air Transport. The President directs the Secretary of State to arrange for U.S. -Soviet talks on this subject as soon as mutually convenient. These negotiations should have as their objective the development of a draft, augmented bilateral agreement for further consideration by the U.S. and Soviet governments. The Secretary of State is directed to submit a report on the status of these negotiations no later than June 4, 1973, for consideration by the President.

The President has directed that no agreements with the Soviet Union be signed, initialled or otherwise concluded without his approval.


Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Director of Central Intelligence
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff