

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

NSC/Soubers to Smith 09/06/2002
By RA Date 66/27/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

May 28, 1973

National Security Decision Memorandum 218

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Interior

SUBJECT: Salinity Problem with Mexico

The President has approved the recommendations for an interim and a permanent solution of the problem of the salinity of the Colorado River waters flowing into Mexico contained in the report submitted on December 29, 1972, by his Special Representative, Mr. Herbert Brownell.

The President has asked Mr. Brownell to conduct negotiations with Mexico as appropriate with a view to reaching an agreement on the basis of his proposals. He will work as Special Representative of the President. Mr. Brownell should be able to call on other Departments and agencies for assistance as necessary.

The President has decided that the Department of Interior will be responsible for preparing legislation seeking authorization for the immediate relocation and lining of the Coachella Canal and design and construction by 1978 of a desalting plant and related works, to be submitted to the President for approval and for subsequent presentation to Congress at the appropriate time.

The President has also directed that a working group chaired by a representative of the Department of Interior be established to determine and implement means of further increasing Wellton-Mohawk on-farm irrigation efficiency. The group should include representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture and the Office of Management and Budget.


Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Secretary of Defense
The Secretary of Agriculture
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
Director, Office of Management and Budget
Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission
Assistant to the President for International
Economic Affairs

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