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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5
NSC/Soubers to Smith 9/06/2002
By CA Date 10/02/06

TOP SECRET/RESTRICTED DATA

August 8, 1973

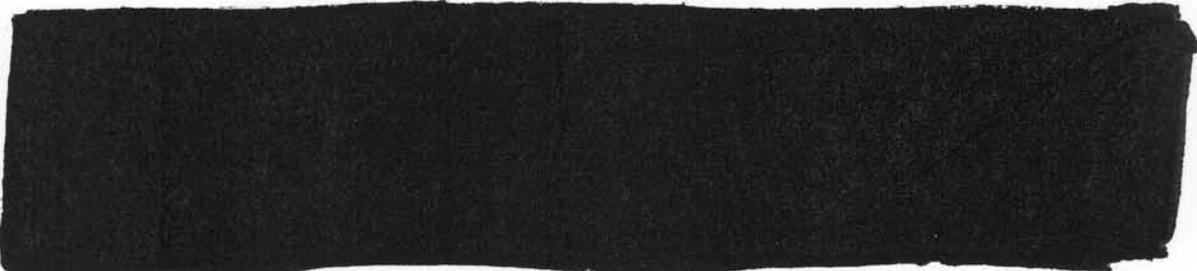
National Security Decision Memorandum 228

TO: Secretary of Defense
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission

SUBJECT: FY 74-76 Nuclear Weapons Stockpiles

The President has approved the proposed nuclear weapons stockpiles submitted by the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) on June 8, 1973.

Accordingly, the President approves:



*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 budgetary actions and policy decisions that affect our future nuclear posture.

The President authorizes:

-- The production and retirement of those quantities of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons parts necessary to achieve 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.

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Classified by Henry A. Kissinger

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under provisions of E.O. 12958
by R. Soubers, National Security Council
F88-1010

-- The AEC in coordination with DOD to initiate production of such long-lead-time nuclear warhead parts as may be necessary to prepare for FY 77 production of warheads required to support approved DOD forces.

-- The AEC to produce and transfer to DOD parts of nuclear weapons, not containing special nuclear material, as may be agreed by the AEC and DOD. These parts may be used in nuclear weapons, training programs, research and development, or production.

-- AEC in coordination with DOD to make such changes in the production and/or retirement of nuclear warheads in FY 74-76 as may be necessary to reflect changes in AEC material availabilities, production/retirement capabilities, or quality assurance requirements, or as necessary to reflect changes as may be required by DOD because of changes in military requirements or adjustments in delivery assets so long as the changes do not exceed ± ten percent in each year in strategic offensive, strategic defensive, tactical and fleet anti-submarine/anti-air warfare warhead totals. Any changes indicative of a major or significant shift in defense policy, military capability or AEC production capabilities, will be submitted for the President's approval.

-- DOD to designate as retired and, in coordination with AEC, 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 AEC requirements for weapons storage during periods of high production workload at AEC assembly facilities.

As part of the FY 75-77 stockpile request, DOD/AEC are requested to add a projection covering two-to-five additional years with the intent of showing an integrated, comprehensive program covering a period of 5-8 years. This FY 75-77 stockpile approval request and its projection should be submitted with the DOD nuclear weapons deployments request in February 1974.

In addition, the President has directed a special review of the stockpile of strategic and tactical nuclear bombs and air defense weapons, and anti-submarine warfare weapons. DOD and AEC should prepare an assessment of the current stockpile, revalidate existing levels and examine the feasibility and cost implications of alternative levels. This study should address the military and strategic implications of any

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proposed reductions as well as the alternative uses for the nuclear materials recouped. The study should be submitted by October 15 for review by the Verification Panel.

Also as part of the October 15 submission, DOD and AEC are requested to review the development of new 8" and 155 mm artillery rounds and to recommend a program of modernization. Discussion of this program should include justification of the recommended stockpile levels and rate of modernization, impact of modernization on nuclear material availability, costs, and effect of modernization on deployments and programs of cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. A. Kissinger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the left.

Henry A. Kissinger

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