April 29, 1969

National Security Study Memorandum 54

TO: The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: A Review of U.S. Naval Shipbuilding Capabilities and Requirements

The President has directed that a study be undertaken of U.S. and foreign naval shipbuilding policies and capabilities. The study should be conducted in two parts.

Part I will consist of a comparative analysis of U.S., Soviet, and other major Eastern and Western European naval shipbuilding policies, technologies, capabilities and costs. Part I should be completed and forwarded to the President by July 1, 1969.

Part II will consist of an analysis of U.S. requirements for naval and merchant marine shipbuilding capacity under wartime conditions in the 1970s. Part II should be completed and forwarded to the President by August 1, 1969.

NSC discussion of the results of the overall study effort will be scheduled at a later date.

This study will be conducted under the direction of the Secretary of Defense. He will be assisted as appropriate by the Secretary of State, the Director of Central Intelligence, the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, and other agencies whose assistance he may need. Close liaison should be maintained in all phases of the study with the office of the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Secretary of State
    The Director of Central Intelligence
    The Director of the Bureau of the Budget