

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

NSC/Soubers to Smith 09/00/2002  
By CA Date 01/30/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

July 23, 1970

National Security Study Memorandum 96

TO: The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense  
The Director, Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: U. S. Policy Toward a Peace Initiative in Laos

The President has requested a study on an urgent basis of the courses of action open to the U.S. in the event of a peace initiative related to Laos which might be proposed by the Laotian Government, the Pathet Lao, or North Vietnam.

The study should consider likely forms of settlement which such an initiative might propose and their effects on U.S. interests. The study also should consider the relationship of such proposals to the U. S. position vis-a-vis Cambodia and South Vietnam. The anticipated roles of other states such as the Soviet Union, Communist China, North Vietnam, the U.K., and the ICC members should be considered where appropriate. The full range of options open to the U.S. in respect to each possible peace proposal pertaining to Laos should be examined and the pros and cons of each fully discussed.

The study should be conducted by an ad hoc group comprising representatives of the addressees and the staff of the National Security Council, and chaired by the representative of the Secretary of State. The President has asked that this study be completed not later than August 7, 1970.

  
Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~