NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

SECRET/EYES ONLY

January 7, 1971

NATIONAL SECURITY STUDY MEMORANDUM 112

TO: The Secretary of State
    The Secretary of Defense
    The Director of Central Intelligence
    The Director, Office of Science and Technology
    The Director, United States Arms Control and
    Disarmament Agency

SUBJECT: U.S. Post-Vietnam Policy on Use of Riot Control
        Agents and Herbicides in War

The President has directed a study of the full range of United
States policy options with regard to the use of riot control agents
and chemical herbicides in war after Vietnam. In this study, riot
control agents and chemical herbicides should be dealt with
separately.

The study should address the advantages and disadvantages of U.S.
policy options, taking into account:

-- the military utility of and possible circumstances under
  which these agents might be employed in future conflict
  situations other than Vietnam;

-- the environmental aspects relevant to use in the situations
  described;

-- international policy considerations;

-- Congressional and public relations aspects.

The position which the United States would take concerning its
understanding as to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 under each policy
option should be discussed.

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The President has directed that an Ad Hoc Group, chaired by a representative of Department of State and comprising representatives of the addressees and the NSC staff, conduct this study. The fact and nature of this review should be very closely held, and distribution should be restricted on an absolute "need to know" basis.

The study should be forwarded to the NSC Senior Review Group by February 1, 1971.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff