

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

*NSC/Soubers to Smith 09/06/2002*

By LSL Date 02/13/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

February 13, 1973

National Security Study Memorandum 169

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

SUBJECT:            U. S. Nuclear Policy

The President has directed a review of existing U.S. nuclear policy in light of the changes in the strategic situation which has occurred since the guidance was published.

The review should embrace all U.S. nuclear forces, including strategic, theater, and tactical. It should evaluate alternative changes to current policies on the basis of:

- desirability of the recommended changes as related to basic national policy;
- the impact on relations with allies (particularly NATO) and potential adversaries;
- the implications of any changes for SALT planning;
- the relationship and effect on U.S. weapons acquisition policy;
- the validity of the supporting assumptions; and,
- the question of declaratory statements of policy and implementing procedures should these changes be adopted.

The review should take into account the material recently provided to the President by the Secretary of Defense as well as other material that is relevant to the issues involved.

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

Classified by Henry A. Kissinger  
Exempt from GDS

This review is to be conducted by a special ad hoc group chaired by a representative of the Department of Defense and composed of one representative each from the Department of State, the Central Intelligence Agency and the NSC staff.

This review should be completed by April 15 for review by the Defense Program Review Committee prior to consideration by the National Security Council.



Henry A. Kissinger