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NSC/Seibers to Smith
By lpm Date 02/14/07

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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February 17, 1972

National Security Decision Memorandum 153

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Treasury
The Secretary of Defense
The Secretary of Commerce
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Administrator, National Aeronautics
and Space Administration
The Science Advisor to the President
The Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality

SUBJECT: Review of US-Soviet Negotiations

The President has reviewed the response to NSSM 143 together with the issues raised during the Senior Review Group meeting on this subject, and has directed that the following guidance be followed in the various negotiations with the Soviet Union. Such negotiations should continue to be conducted on their merits. The President will wish to have the option, where he deems it desirable and feasible, of pointing to substantial US-Soviet progress on various issues at the time of the Summit. The President emphasizes the importance of avoiding US concessions which might be suggested solely in order to expedite agreement in time for the Summit.

The President notes that specific guidance has been provided separately on those issues involving US-Soviet Trade Relations, Maritime Talks, Talks on Preventing Incidents at Sea, Health Cooperation and a new Exchanges Agreement. With regard to bilateral negotiations concerning a possible Joint Space Docking Mission, Environmental Cooperation, and a Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation, the following guidance should be followed:

-- Joint Space Docking Mission. The President has directed that the United States explore with the Soviets the possibility of a US-Soviet announcement that agreement has been reached on the desirability of a joint space docking mission so as to provide the President with the option

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of making this announcement during his Moscow visit, if such an announcement is deemed mutually acceptable. Accordingly, the President directs the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in coordination with the Department of State, to review this possibility with his Soviet counterparts, and to conduct such pre-Summit negotiations as necessary with regard to this objective. The Administrator, NASA, is further directed to submit a report on the status of these negotiations no later than April 15, 1972, for review by the President.

-- Environmental Cooperation. The President has considered the issues and recommendations contained in the NSSM response and in the December 15 memorandum of the Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), with regard to bilateral environmental cooperation with the Soviet Union.

The President has approved such cooperation in principle, and he directs the Chairman, CEQ, to take such preliminary steps as may be required to provide the President with the option of fruitfully discussing US-Soviet environmental cooperation during his Moscow meetings. The President directs the Chairman, CEQ, in coordination with the Department of State, to explore through normal channels the possibilities of a US-Soviet understanding in principle on the desirability of bilateral environmental cooperation, to be embodied in a joint Summit statement. Should this understanding be deemed mutually desirable and should the statement be made during the Moscow meetings, the President would expect the Chairman, CEQ, to make a post-Summit trip to the Soviet Union to undertake detailed negotiation of a bilateral environmental agreement.

The Chairman, CEQ, is directed to submit a report on explorations with the appropriate Soviet officials, together with the text of a proposed joint statement no later than April 7, 1972, for review by the President.

-- Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation. The President has reviewed the issues and recommendations presented in the Science Advisor's memorandum of December 22, 1971, and in the NSSM response concerning a possible US-Soviet Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation. Taking into account the promising possibilities inherent in such cooperation, the broad scope of the proposed cooperation, the several US interests involved, and the fact that the proposal has not yet been formally considered with the Soviets, the President has decided that this issue should not be the subject of pre-Summit negotiations with the Soviet Union. He directs the Science Advisor to begin preparations,

coordinating as appropriate within the Executive Branch, for exploratory discussions with the Soviets on the subject of the proposed joint commission. During his Moscow meetings, the President will wish to have the option of discussing the proposed joint commission. Accordingly the Science Advisor is directed to prepare US proposals on this subject, together with the text of a proposed statement for possible use during the Moscow meetings, and to forward these items, no later than April 7, 1972, for review by the President.

Agencies involved in negotiations with the Soviets are directed to provide the Chairman, Interdepartmental Group for Europe, with bi-weekly status reports on the negotiations, and the IG/EUR Chairman is directed to provide the White House with an overall, negotiations status report on a bi-weekly basis.

The President has reiterated the directive set forth in National Security Study Memorandum 143, that no agreements with the Soviet Union will be initialed or otherwise concluded without his approval.


Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare
The Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs
The Assistant to the President for
International Economic Affairs
The Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
The Director, U.S. Information Agency