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April 15, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: Al Haig

SUBJECT: JCS Reply to Presidential Request for Options
Available Under the SIOP

The attached study forwarded by the Secretary of Defense without substantive comment contains an illustrative tabulation of military options by U. S. and allied forces under a variety of contingency situations. Apparently, General Wheeler and the Chiefs decided to merge two questions received from you and the President during the initial briefings at the Pentagon and they have included a full range of tight military operations which they have depicted as options for the employment of military force. With specific reference to the SIOP, itself, they have included several combinations of targeting, all of which, however, are in their standard packages, and they have not actually fractionalized these packages in any specific way. The summary, you will note, excludes reference to total numbers of targets or weapons expenditures.

Basically, under the SIOP options provided, the following combinations are reflected in the plan:

1. General war situation -- retaliation utilizing SIOP Attack Option 4C, which would be a retaliatory attack against the nuclear threat, military targets outside of urban areas and urban/industrial targets. Note: This is a full SIOP reaction.
2. SIOP Attack Option 3B -- a retaliatory attack against nuclear threat targets and military targets outside of urban areas.
3. SIOP Attack Option 2C -- a pre-emptive attack when in receipt of unequivocal warning against nuclear threat, military targets outside of urban areas and urban/industrial targets.

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4. SIOP Attack Option 2B -- which is a pre-emptive attack after unequivocal warning against nuclear threat targets and military targets outside urban areas.

5. SIOP Attack Option 1A -- a pre-emptive attack against nuclear threat targets when unequivocal warning is received.