MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

January 2, 1975

General:

Formerly, we were required to consult with the Brits before using nuclear weapons based in the UK with forces assigned or earmarked to SACEUR/SACLANT. Under the new text (see clip at Tab A) the reference to these forces being earmarked or assigned to SACEUR/SACLANT is removed. Thus we would now have to consult prior to the use of nuclear weapons by U.S. forces based in the UK, in UK waters (a new addition).

The additional requirement to consult prior to using U.S. forces in or around the UK even though they are not earmarked or assigned to a NATO commander, may not be significant, but I believe we should know how significant it is; that is, how many U.S. ships/squadrons operate in or around the UK which are not earmarked or assigned to a NATO commander. I am under the general impression that very few of our forces are assigned; a larger number is earmarked, but that many are in neither category. The DPQ response could tell us fairly easily. I asked Denis to do that, but he felt that the spirit of the undertaking should govern and that regardless of its being broader we should have no objection to consultation. He may be right, but I believe we should know a little more about what we are getting into.