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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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August 27, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PETER TARNOFF, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE  
SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

COLONEL LESLIE G. DENEND, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO  
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS

DIST:  
9/2/80

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SUBJECT: PD-59

Attached is a copy of the DOD chronology of PD-59 which  
was submitted to Lloyd Cutler today. Secretary Brown asks  
that it be handled as an ALPHA channel document.

*Carl R. Smith*  
Carl R. Smith  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Military Assistant to the  
Secretary of Defense

Attachment

DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE  
INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,  
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2011-064, document no. 36  
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: December 19, 2013

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this document becomes

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X10228

Countervailing Strategy Chronology

- Aug 29, 1977 PD-18 reaffirms deterrence; cites need for "options for limited retaliatory response designed to control escalation and flexibly respond to aggression" and for secure reserve force and C<sup>3</sup> to execute limited options. Says that pending a targeting review, NSDM-242 remains in effect for strategic forces.
- Aug 29, 1977 ✓ ZB memo directs SecDef. to "review current targeting policy and recommend targeting criteria for NSC consideration and Presidential decision."
- Jan 78 *sto* FY 79 Defense Report -- stresses need for flexibility and cites inadequacy of assured destruction as all-purpose theory.
- Late 1977 National Targeting Policy Review (NTPR) study begun in DOD with Walt Slocombe and Andy Marshall as co-chairmen and Leon Sloss as director.
- May 1978 ? Interim NTPR Report. NSC and State staff were briefed and then gave comments. Gompert, Carl Keysen, Spurgeon Keeny, McGeorge Bundy read report and gave comments.
- Nov 28, 1978 *not held until following May* Final Report to President, with SecDef cover memo. Notes some items are matters for DOD implementation and some are for interagency discussion. The latter category included broad policy objectives (4 choices in study); targeting "to impede recovery," counterforce capabilities; targeting population per se, and China. Proposed NSC/SCC/PRC meetings.
- Jan 5, 1979 Weinraub story that DOD wants priority on military targets.
- Jan 29, 1979 SecDef issues implementing instructions in DOD.
- Jan 1979 FY 80 Defense Report -- first use of term countervailing strategy (p. 77).
- Feb 21, 1979 Gelb memo comments on study, proposes PRC meeting on various topics, more study of others.
- Apr 4, 1979 *accurate ?* SCC (attended by Vance, Turner and Keeny among others) reviews general propositions of targeting study, presidential issues. (State, ACDA, DCI had copies of final NTPR report.)
- Apr 25, 1979 SCC: Briefings on SIOP, RISOP and NCA connectivity.

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Apr 26, 1979 SCC: Specific issues: China, population, leadership, regionalization, targeting industry, hard target capability (HTC).

May-Jun 1979 Series of meetings on MX (relevant because HTC had been an NTPR issue).

Aug 1979 Presidential guidance on targeting China.

Fall 1979 Continuing work on papers commissioned by SCC meetings. (None were ever finished or circulated.)  
 Discussion of need for PD.  
 JCS/OSD briefings to Ermarth and Welch showing what actions DOD had been taking.

Jan 1980 DOD briefings for Welch on implementation. Welch said ZB feels strongly there should be a PD to bless implementation at Presidential level. DOD concluded that the countervailing strategy decision had already been made earlier.

Jan 1980 *State?* Detailed discussion of countervailing strategy in Defense Report for FY 81.

Mar 26-May 2, 1980 Draft PD worked out between NSC and OSD.

Apr 16, 1980 *was this done?* HB to ZB -- comments on draft PD; "Appropriate to discuss next with Cy" because of obvious foreign policy implications.

May 20, 1980 HB to ZB - we are now agreed on a text; "next step is to discuss it with Ed."

Late May 1980 ZB and HB agreed that an NSC meeting should be held to show ESM and the DCI the text and to get the President's general agreement to the ideas embodied in the text. Preparations were made within DOD for holding an NSC meeting to present PD to ESM (and DCI and President). No meeting held.

Jun 3, 1980 HB briefed NATO's Nuclear Planning Group in Norway; State, NSC participated as members of US Delegation.

Jul 25, 1980 HB briefed President on PD-59.

Jul 27, 1980 Beecher article in Boston Globe, "US Drafts New N-War Strategy vs. Soviets," mentioned draft PD.

Aug 5, 1980 HB outlined content of policy to Muskie at M-B-B meeting and promised briefing the next week upon ESM's return to Washington.

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- Aug 5, 1980 At request of NSC, Walt Slocombe briefed Burt and Getler (both of whom already had the story).
- Aug 7, 1980 HB called ESM in California to give him more of the over-two-year history of the policy (after ESM's comments on the aircraft had appeared in the press).
- Aug 8, 1980 HB called Stennis, Nunn, Moynihan to fill them in on the history and nature of the policy. Stennis and Nunn were aware of the policy and the fact that it had been included in publicly held documents for 12-18 months.
- Aug 9, 1980 HB called ESM to suggest that Walt Slocombe go to Maine to show him PD-59 and to answer any questions ESM may have.
- Aug 11, 1980 Walt Slocombe briefed ESM in Maine; ESM read PD-59.

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