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

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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
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
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 C3 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  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 Keyes, Spurgeon Keeny, McGeorge Bundy read report and gave comments.

Nov 28, 1978  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  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.
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.


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

Apr 16, 1980  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.


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.
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.