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F 35086/76

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

471.6

23 MAR 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR  
NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Modification of SSBN Commitments to NATO

(7) Pursuant to the approval of the President, as conveyed to us in Brent Scowcroft's memorandum of January 27, 1976, we have offered to commit an additional 250 Poseidon re-entry vehicles to SACEUR's General Strike Plan. The Joint Chiefs of Staff are proceeding with appropriate planning.

(7S) However, it is necessary to convey certain planning details to the NATO Military Committee and to SACEUR in order for their side of the planning to proceed. This requires in turn that the provisions of NSDM-132 as they relate to re-entry vehicles be revised. It is especially important that NATO be informed of the provision that the 400 total warheads committed will consist of 230 re-entry vehicles from normally alert Poseidon SSBNs and 170 re-entry vehicles from normally non-alert Poseidon SSBNs. Attached is a draft NSDM which would authorize us to provide such detail to NATO.

(U) The Department of State has concurred in the draft NSDM.

(8) In addition to modifying the commitment of Poseidon re-entry vehicles, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have also recommended that the requirement to maintain three SSBNs in the Mediterranean at all times be relaxed. We consider that there is great merit in their recommendation, in order to reduce vulnerabilities to Soviet interference and to utilize more fully the operational and mobile capabilities of the Poseidon weapons system. We are discussing this matter with the Department of State, and will bring forward to the President a coordinated position and a proposed scenario for consulting on this matter with our Allies.

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NAID

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

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2011-078, document no. 2  
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: May 01, 2017

~~FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA~~  
Unauthorized disclosure subject to  
administrative and criminal sanctions.  
Handle as Restricted Data on foreign  
classification. Section 114b, Atomic  
Energy Act 1954.

M. Staser Holcomb  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Military Assistant

Enclosure: Draft NSDM-132

Downgraded to Secret  
Date: 08 FEB 2010  
DOD Office of Security Review

ASD/ISA  
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED  
AT TWO-YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 1986

OSD Ref No. 1

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SEC DEF CONIR No. X-0868

10-M-0647-A1



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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

23 MAR 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR  
NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Modification of SSBN Commitments to NATO

Prepd by: DR. N. Gattney/SW/PD-NP/X/06/11/3-16-76 (Receipt #P163486)  
Dist: Cy #1 & 2, Addres: #3 Signer: #4 SecDef; #5 DepSecDef C; #6 DepSecDef E;  
#7 OSD files; #8 P; #9 R6C; #10 PD Comeback; #11 PD Chron

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(S) However, it is necessary to convey certain planning details to the NATO Military Committee and to SACEUR in order for their side of the planning to proceed. This requires in turn that the provisions of NSDM-132 as they relate to re-entry vehicles be revised. It is especially important that NATO be informed of the provision that the 400 total warheads committed will consist of 230 re-entry vehicles from normally alert Poseidon SSBNs and 170 re-entry vehicles from normally non-alert Poseidon SSBNs. Attached is a draft NSDM which would authorize us to provide such detail to NATO.

(U) The Department of State has concurred in the draft NSDM.

(S) In addition to modifying the commitment of Poseidon re-entry vehicles, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have also recommended that the requirement to maintain three SSBNs in the Mediterranean at all times be relaxed. We consider that there is great merit in their recommendation, in order to reduce vulnerabilities to Soviet interference and to utilize more fully the operational and mobile capabilities of the Poseidon weapons system. We are discussing this matter with the Department of State, and will bring forward to the President a coordinated position and a proposed scenario for consulting on this matter with our Allies.

M. Staser Holcomb  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Military Assistant

Enclosure: Draft NSDM-132

SEC DEF CONTR NO. X-0863

COPY 9 OF 11 COPIES.

ASD/ISA  
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED  
TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 21 Dec 1986

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I-38,5086/76

4D 825  
R+0

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DRAFT NSDM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Modification of SSBN Commitments to NATO

(TS) The President has approved the proposal to modify the US commitment of fleet ballistic missile warheads to NATO. This modification should provide improved survivability of the forces committed to the General Strike Plan (GSP) and allow for some reduction in tactical aircraft requirements for targeting against fixed targets in the GSP, thus making such aircraft fully available for other theater operations. Specifically, the US will offer to:

- (TS) Provide SACEUR with the military authority for target assignment, alerting, and missile release for 230 Poseidon RVs from normally alert Poseidon SSBNs and 170 Poseidon RVs from normally non-alert Poseidon SSBNs, vice the current arrangement whereby SACEUR is provided the same authority for 150 Poseidon RVs from alert Poseidon SSBNs. In the case of the RVs from normally non-alert SSBNs, it is understood that SACEUR's missile alerting and release authority becomes operative after the SSBNs have been directed to generate by proper authorities. It is also understood that the Director of Strategic Target Planning will perform the detailed targeting function for these RVs based on a list of SACEUR-designated targets in coordination with SACEUR.

- (TS) Carry the 400 SACEUR-assigned RVs in NATO-pure missiles aboard any number of normally alert or normally non-alert SSBNs, as appropriate, whether located in CINCLANT's or USCINCEUR's area of responsibility.

(U) Any proposal for commitment of additional RVs beyond those specified above shall be submitted to the President for his approval.

(TS) It is to be understood that these commitments to NATO in no way infringe upon the current authority of the President of the United States with regard to missile release either in the NATO context or as a unilateral national action. The currently approved nuclear weapons safety rules for the Poseidon weapon system will remain in effect for those missiles assigned to NATO. The appropriate authorities aboard SSBNs which carry NATO-assigned missiles will be provided with the necessary command, control and communications documentation required for alerting and launch of missiles in accordance with NATO authorization procedures.

Classified by ASD/ISA  
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED  
EACH TWO-YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 1986

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*Encl.*

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~~(C)~~ The Secretaries of State and Defense, or their designated representatives, may proceed with any necessary consultation and planning in NATO in accordance with the above.

(U) This NSDM supersedes relevant portions of NSDM-132 of 13 September 1971.

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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

1: 137 276

In reply refer to:  
1-38,5086/76

MEMORANDUM FOR REAR ADMIRAL HOLCOMB

SUBJECT: Poseidon Commitments to NATO

The attached memorandum for your signature to the NSC proposes a draft NSDM covering details of the Poseidon RV commitment to NATO.

This NSDM is necessary if the planning in NATO is to proceed. JSTPS has been able to do its part on the basis of the broad authorization which permitted us to announce the commitment of the 250 RVs at the NPG meeting in Hamburg. But the NATO Military Committee and SHAPE need this additional detail if they are to proceed on their side. The JCS are anxious to wrap this up.

The draft NSDM has been discussed and refined with the NSC Staff and with the Joint Staff. Reaffirmation of State Department concurrence has been received.

Recommend signature of the attached memorandum.

James C. Pfautz  
Colonel, USAF  
Executive Officer

Enclosure:  
Memo for NSA w/atchmnt

Dist: Orig - Addee; 1 SecDef; DepSecDef C; DepSecDef E; OSD files;  
P, Signer; R&C; PD Comeback; PD Chron

Classified by ASD/ISA  
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED  
TWO-YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 1986

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Upon removal of attachment  
this document becomes

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

<b>OASD/ISA INTRAOFFICE CONTROL SHEET</b>	DATE 16 March 1976	LOG NO. 35086774 I-35-8086776
SUBJECT: Modification of SSBN Commitments to NATO		CURRENT SUSPENSE DATE: ASAP

SUMMARY (Describe briefly the requirement, background and action recommended):

Recommend signature of the attached memorandum for Rear Admiral Holcomb.

19 MAR 1976  
JAMES G. PEABODY  
Colonel, USAF  
*Area Officer*

SEQ NO	INTERNAL COORDINATION	INITIAL	DATE	SEQ NO	INTERNAL COORDINATION	INITIAL	DATE
	ASSISTANT SECRETARY	S		2	DASD-P/PL&NSC AFF	P	
3	EXECUTIVE OFFICER	XD		1	DIR, P/PL&NSC AFF	PD	
4	RECORDS & CONTROL	RC			DEP DIR, NSC AFF	PN	
	PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT	SA			DIR, MBFR TF	PF	
	DIR, LAW OF SEA TF	LS					
	DEP FOR MCATO	TO			DASD-INT'L ECON & PW/MIA AFF B		
	SPEC ASST FOR CONG REL	DS			DIRECTOR, IEA	BD	
	PRINCIPAL DASD	D			DIR, ST & D	IT	
	MILITARY ASST	DM			PRINCIPAL ADV (PW/MIA)	PW	
	SPEC ASST TO PDASD	DT			DASD FOR SA	M	
	DIR, FMR AFFAIRS	IF			DIR, SA PLANS & POLICY	MD	
	ASST FOR ADMINISTRATION	AD			PLANS & PROGRAMS DIV	MP	
	DASD FOR EA&PAC AFF	A			POLICY DIV	MN	
	DIR, EA&PAC REG	AD			DEF SCTY ASST AGCY		
	DASD EUR&NATO AFF	E			DIRECTOR	T	
X	DIR, EUR&NATO AFF	ED	3/17/76		DEP DIR	TD	
	DIR, I-A REGION	IA			SPEC ASST	TB	
	DASD NE, AF&SA AFF	N			COMPTROLLER	TC	
	DIR, NE&SA REG	NE			DIR FOR SALES NEG	TS	
	DIR, AFRICAN REG	NA					

COORDINATION OUTSIDE ISA (Continue on reverse)			
ACTIVITY	NAME AND TITLE	INITIAL	DATE
X ATSD(AE)	<i>William J. ... dep ATSD(AE)</i>	<i>WJ</i>	3/17/76

NAME, DIRECTORATE, EXTENSION, AND SIGNATURE OF ORIGINATING OFFICIAL:  
Dr. H. H. Gaffney, DepDir PD-NP, x76671

UNCLASSIFIED WHEN ATTACHED EN  
ARE DETACHED