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MANDATORY REVIEW  
CASE # MR-NSC 2010-240-Appeal  
DOCUMENT # 001  
ISCAP APPEAL 2015-022~~

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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/

PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE / NSC-PD-48

April 4, 1979

DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE  
INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,  
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)  
ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2015-022, document no. 1  
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: May 01, 2017

TO: The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense  
  
ALSO: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
  
SUBJECT: Ballistic Missile Submarine Commitments to  
NATO (U)

The President has approved the proposal to modify the US commitment of fleet ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs); and to reaffirm the US commitment of missile warhead reentry vehicles (RVs) to NATO. Specifically, the United States will offer to:

- Provide SACEUR with military authority for target assignment, alerting and missile release for 230 RVs from normally alert SSBNs and 170 RVs from normally nonalert SSBNs. In the case of the RVs from normally nonalert SSBNs, SACEUR's missile alerting and release authority becomes operative after the SSBNs have been directed to generate by proper US authorities, normally at the US equivalent of NATO Simple Alert. The US Director of Strategic Target Planning, in coordination with SACEUR, will perform the detailed targeting function for these 400 RVs based on a list of SACEUR-designated targets.
- Carry the 400 RVs provided to SACEUR, in NATO-pure missiles aboard any number of normally alert or normally nonalert SSBNs, as appropriate, located in USCINCLANT / SACLANT's or USCINCEUR / SACEUR's area of responsibility.
- Operate SSBNs in the Atlantic and Mediterranean when under national control. These SSBNs will be assigned to NATO in the annual US response to the NATO Defense Planning Questionnaire; designation of Major NATO

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REASON NSC 1.13(f)~~

~~Downgraded Per Authority of  
National Security Council 5/28/2014~~

Commander and availability categories will be as committed therein. Missiles (excluding the 400 RVs provided to SACEUR for target assignment, alerting and missile release) aboard the SSBNs assigned to SACEUR and SACLANT will be targeted in the SIOP by the US Director of Strategic Target Planning.

- Operate SSBNs assigned to SACEUR in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. Three such SSBNs will be on patrol in these areas at all times for the foreseeable future.
- Pass operational command of assigned Category A SSBNs to the appropriate NATO Commander, either SACEUR or SACLANT, when specifically directed by appropriate US authorities, normally after declaration of Reinforced Alert and upon completion of the strategic mission. (S)

Any proposed change in the number of SSBNs assigned to SACEUR (currently 5) should formally be brought to the President's attention separately from his review of the annual US response to the NATO Defense Planning Questionnaire. (S)

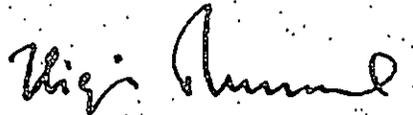
It is to be understood that these commitments to NATO in no way infringe upon the current authority of the President of the United States with regard to missile release either in the NATO context or as a unilateral national action. The approved nuclear weapons safety rules for the SSBN weapon system will remain in effect for those missiles assigned to NATO. The appropriate authorities aboard SSBNs that 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. (S)

The Secretaries of State and Defense, or their designated representatives, shall consult with the NATO Allies about the need to revise our current commitment due to the withdrawal of fleet ballistic missile submarines from Rota, Spain, required by the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the United States and Spain. In presenting this matter to NATO, the following should be stressed regarding the offer:

- The United States will continue to conduct SSBN operations in the Mediterranean.
- The offer will in no way affect the commitment of 400 RVs to SACEUR, or SACEUR's targeting flexibility. The commitment of these RVs has been, and remains, independent of particular submarine operating areas.
- The total number of SSBNs assigned to NATO in the US response to the Defense Planning Questionnaire remains unchanged.
- There will be no diminution of US ability to cover SACEUR targets from deployed SSBNs. (TS)

In making these approaches and discussing this offer, nothing shall be said to our NATO Allies which could be construed to imply that additional RVs may be offered to the Alliance in the future for targeting, alerting and missile release authority. Any such proposals shall be made only after approval by the President. Further, any revisions to this commitment will be made in conjunction with appropriate consultations with the Alliance. (S)

NSDMS 132 and 328 are rescinded. (U)



Zbigniew Brzezinski