

~~TOP SECRET EYES ONLY~~

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

16 DEC 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: National Security Planning

As you requested, I have reviewed and revised the previous concept paper on national security strategy which I forwarded to you on 6 November, with an objective of introducing this strategy concept into the national security planning process for consideration by the Defense Program Review Committee (DPRC) and the National Security Council (NSC). I believe that this approach to national security strategy, derived from your policy for peace, will serve to consolidate and refine our national security planning for the future.

The attached document is a paper that advocates revisions to current planning. As with any new approach to the solution of complex problems, controversial concepts are included. I believe that they are also necessary, however, if an effective and viable solution to these problems is to be found.

We continue to face major problems in national security. In the short term in Defense, we need essentially to preserve present force capabilities, while at the same time maximizing our options to add to or modify our capabilities.

The FY 71 Budget has taken us to the lowest prudent level of defense spending -- the FY 71 transition budget. We have cut defense spending as far as we can. There is convincing evidence that we must now selectively increase defense spending in critical areas. The National Security Strategy of Realistic Deterrence contained in the following document was put together with the following goals in mind:

1. A recognition of the strategic, fiscal, manpower and political realities we face.
2. Protection of the FY 1972 Service-preferred forces with minimum modifications.
3. To provide the basis for increased flexibility in the short term.

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4. To lay the foundation now for strengthening forces in all major categories during the next five years -- under a cohesive and supportable national security strategy.

The National Security Strategy of Realistic Deterrence is linked closely to the Nixon Doctrine with its emphasis on increased strength for air and sea forces as well as the emphasis in NSDM-95 on maintaining and improving the conventional capability in NATO.

This document is also being distributed concurrently within the Department of Defense as tentative strategic guidance for planning future Defense Department programs and budgets. It is my intention, after consideration by the NSC and consultations with the Services and departmental agencies, to issue a revised version of this document about 1 March 1971. The final document would then serve as firm strategic guidance for the Department of Defense in planning its FY 73-77 Program.



Attachment

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