

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

14 DEC 1971

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MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS
SUBJECT: SALT Tactics

Ambassador Smith has asked authority to state that the U. S. concurs with the Soviets that the ABM agreement should be in the form of a treaty.

I agree to Ambassador Smith making that statement provided that he state at the same time that (1) an ABM agreement, regardless of form, is unacceptable without the clause which allows us to withdraw from the agreement if a follow-on offense agreement has not been negotiated after a specified time (e.g., 5 years), and (2) an ABM agreement is only acceptable if the above clause is provided and some acceptable offense limits will be in force so long as the ABM is in force.

My reason for these statements is to keep clear that we are not willing to accept a long term ABM agreement together with only a short term offense agreement under conditions such that we would either have an ABM-only agreement in force after expiration of the offense agreement, or else we would have to accept an undesirable follow-on offense agreement to avoid the ABM-only agreement.

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