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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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November 18, 1982

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

EXEMPT MDX-003#24504
BY RW NARA DATE 6/13/82

National Security Decision
Directive Number 68

FY 1983-1988 Nuclear Weapons Stockpile (U)

I approve the proposed Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Plan dated October 19, 1982, for the fiscal years 1983 through 1988. The stockpile levels represent authorized ceilings, not to be exceeded, except as provided below or otherwise approved by me. (U)

For the period FY 1983-1988, the following are authorized:

1. The Department of Energy (DOE) shall produce and retire those quantities of nuclear warheads and nuclear warhead parts necessary to achieve and maintain the approved stockpile, [REDACTED] (SFRD)
2. DOE may produce and transfer to the Department of Defense (DOD) parts of nuclear weapons, not containing special nuclear materials, as may be agreed by DOE and DOD. These parts may be used in nuclear weapons, training programs, research and development, and production. Additionally, DOE may temporarily transfer parts or test units containing fissile materials or plutonium power supplies for development and flight testing programs. (U)
3. DOE, in coordination with DOD, shall make such changes in the production and/or retirement of nuclear warheads during FY 1983-1988 as may be necessary to accommodate changes in DOE material availabilities, production/retirement capabilities, or quality assurance requirements; or as necessary to accommodate changes required by DOD because of adjustments in military requirements or delivery assets, provided the changes do not exceed plus or minus 10 percent in each year in strategic offensive, strategic defensive, tactical, or fleet warhead totals. Any such changes which indicate a significant shift in defense requirements or DOE production capabilities will be submitted to me for approval. (SFRD)
4. DOD may designate as retired and, in coordination with DOE, may retain custody of nuclear warheads for a period of up to 18 months from the designated date, if necessary to reduce DOE requirements for weapons storage during periods of high production workload at DOE assembly facilities. (U)

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As a matter of policy, national security requirements, not arbitrary constraints on nuclear material availability and weapons fabrication capacity, shall be the limiting factor in the nuclear force structure. To this end, DOE shall:

1. Assure the capability to meet current and projected needs for nuclear materials. To assure this capability, DOE shall: (a) maintain the currently operating nuclear material production facilities; (b) restart the L-reactor at the Savannah River Plant, Aiken, South Carolina, as soon as possible, but no later than October 1983; and (c) restart the PUREX chemical processing plant at Richland, Washington, as soon as possible, but no later than April 1984. DOE shall also continue to pursue the design of necessary nuclear material and weapons production facilities for the 1990s. (U)

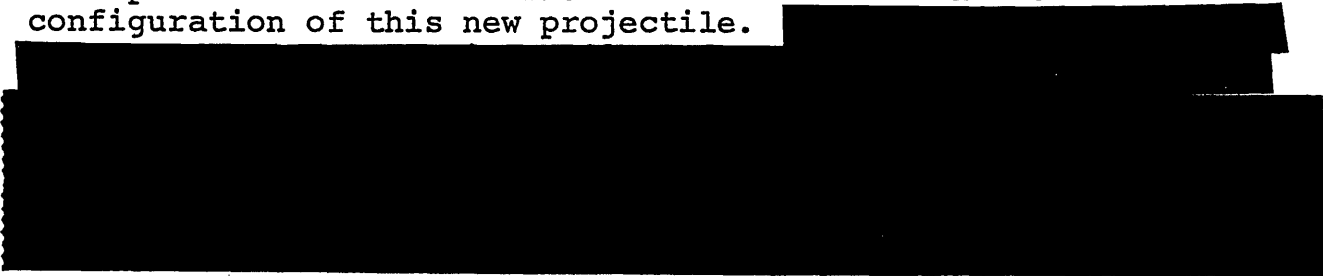
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The DOE will advise the DOD whenever such a reserve is not available. (SRD)

3. Request from OMB the necessary resources to meet these nuclear material requirements. (U)

DOD, in conjunction with DOE and the Department of State, should review the impact of the delay in production of the W82 155 mm projectile warhead on the modernization of the NATO nuclear stockpile. No final decisions have been made on the configuration of this new projectile.



The FY 1989-1993 Stockpile Projection which was submitted with the Stockpile Plan has been noted for planning purposes; it should be updated to reflect policy and programming decisions and used as the point of departure for the development of future stockpile plans. The FY 1984-FY 1989 Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Plan should be submitted by August 31, 1983. This submission should focus on the budget year FY 1985 but should include a summary of FY 1984 with the Stockpile Plan submission (FY 1984-1989). A projection through an additional ten-year planning period should also be provided. (U)

This directive supersedes National Security Decision Directive Number 28, dated March 17, 1982.

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Richard Reagan