National Security Decision Memorandum 137

TO: The Secretary of State
    The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Policy Toward Iceland

The President has considered the issues raised in the response to
NSSM 134 and discussed by the Senior Review Group concerning US
policy toward Iceland.

The President has decided that retention of US military presence in
Iceland shall continue as a primary US policy objective. The United
States should conduct operations at the Keflavik Base and elsewhere
in a normal manner and refrain from pressing the Icelandic Govern­
ment to reverse its announced policy on withdrawal of US forces from
Iceland. The United States should also continue to educate the Icelandic
Government on the vital role played by the US-manned base in the
defense of Iceland and the entire North Atlantic area.

The Under Secretaries Committee is directed to monitor developments
in Iceland and to begin preparations for talks with the Icelanders on the
US military presence issue. The President will wish to review the US
position prior to commencement of the talks.

The President has further decided that the United States should refrain
from pressing the Icelandic Government to reverse its announced inten­
tions to extend Iceland’s fishing limits and establish a pollution control
zone, while at the same time ensuring that US oceans policy objectives
are clearly understood. Further the United States should avoid direct
involvement in Iceland’s fisheries dispute with the United Kingdom, Fed­
eral Republic of Germany and other distant-water fisheries countries.
The Department of State is requested to bring US oceans policy objectives
to the attention of the Icelandic Government in a manner consistent with
this policy.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Director, Central Intelligence Agency
    Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff