In the case of the three Latin American countries on the above list (Brazil, Chile and Colombia), the program budgeting studies directed by this memorandum should be related to the extent possible to existing programming activities under the CASP (Country Analysis and Strategy Paper) system.

Henry A. Kissinger

79. National Security Decision Memorandum 26


TO
The Vice President
The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness
The Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers
The Director of the Bureau of the Budget

SUBJECT
Defense Program Review Committee

To assist me in carrying out my responsibilities for the conduct of national security affairs, I hereby direct the formation of the Defense Program Review Committee. This Committee will review the diplomatic, military, political and economic consequences of issues requiring Presidential determination that result from

—proposals to change defense strategy, programs and budgets,
—proposals to change U.S. overseas force deployments and committed forces based in the U.S.,
—major defense policy and program issues raised by studies prepared in response to National Security Study Memorandums.

1 Source: National Archives, Nixon Presidential Materials, NSC Files, Agency Files, Box 235, DPRC & DEF Budget—Vol. I—1970. Secret. A copy was sent to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

2 Records of DPRC meetings are in the National Archives, Nixon Presidential Materials, NSC Files, NSC Institutional Files (H-Files), Box H–098–H–106. Included are minutes for many meetings as well as talking points, other briefing material, and background memoranda and papers, 1969–1973.
The Committee will meet as necessary and supervise the preparation of issues papers for consideration by the National Security Council. Issues will be brought to the attention of this group at the initiation of the addressee agencies or of the Chairman. Studies of defense policy and program issues undertaken in response to National Security Study Memorandums will be submitted to the Defense Program Review Committee prior to NSC consideration rather than to the NSC Review Group.

The membership of the Defense Program Review Committee shall include:

- The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (Chairman)
- The Under Secretary of State
- The Deputy Secretary of Defense
- The Director of Central Intelligence
- The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
- The Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers
- The Director of the Bureau of the Budget

Depending on the issue under consideration, other agencies shall be represented at the discretion of the Chairman.

Richard Nixon

80. Editorial Note

The President’s Assistant, H.R. Haldeman, included the following entry in his diary for October 15, 1969: “Had Rogers and Laird in after NSC to try to get them in line about Vietnam and November 3 speech. Apparently this uncovered all their problems with Kissinger, because President called me in to discuss it. Says he’ll have to bring Mitchell in more because K can’t deal with Rogers and Laird, has problem of communicating with them, and has become an issue. Wants me to make all this clear to K, hard to do. Problem is his insistence on perfection and total adherence to the line in every detail. Also injects himself too much into everything, between P and Cabinet officers, and they just won’t buy it, so he becomes ineffective even at getting them to do what they already were ready to do.” (The Haldeman Diaries: Multimedia Edition)

Twelve days later, for October 27, the following entry appears in Haldeman’s diary: “The K problem came to a head today. P had me in early to review some items, then got into problem of K vs. State, and