National Security Decision Memorandum 219

TO: The Secretary of State
    The Acting Secretary of Defense
    The Director of Central Intelligence
    The Director, Office of Emergency Preparedness
    The Chairman, Under Secretaries Committee

SUBJECT: Implementation Procedures for Agreement on Measures to Reduce the Risk of the Outbreak of Nuclear War Between the USA and the USSR

The President has approved the recommendations of the Under Secretaries Committee in their report of January 30, 1973, with the following additions:

a. The Standing Consultative Commission established by the Strategic Arms Limitation Agreements will be used as one means of discussing procedures and problems with the Soviet Union, as deemed appropriate by the Secretary of State.

b. The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs will be included in the primary conference bridge whenever a NUCFLASH conference is convened. The White House Signal Board will be included in the primary conference bridge to facilitate contacting the Assistant to the President and, when necessary, the President.

c. The Office of Emergency Preparedness will be included in the monitor group for any NUCFLASH conference.

d. Recommendations to the President on warning of civil population and notification of Allies will be addressed in the NUCFLASH conference for time urgent situations. The Fast Reaction Procedures Cards prepared by the National Military Command Center will be revised to include these elements at appropriate points. These cards will be distributed to all interested communication agencies, including the White House Communications Agency.

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e. As circumstances require each agency involved will take action, in coordination as necessary with other agencies, to keep its procedures current and to inform all interested agencies of such actions.

The NSC Under Secretaries Committee should submit a formal review of the implementing procedures by April 15, 1975, for the President's consideration to ensure their continued adequacy.

The Department of Defense is requested to study the desirability of pre-positioning authority to warn the civil population of imminent arrival of Soviet or other accidentally launched missiles and report through the Under Secretaries Committee by August 1, 1973.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission
    The Director, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
    The Acting Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
    The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff