March 12, 1983

US INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION POLICY

In the interests of clarifying and elaborating national policy in the area of international information and integrating information policy and strategy with the other components of US national security, I am directing that a comprehensive study of US international information policy be undertaken.

The study should result in a draft National Security Decision Directive (NSDD) on US International Information Policy for consideration by the National Security Council and, in turn, for my decision.

The review and resulting NSDD should include consideration of the following topics:

-- The international information environment, including the general role of ideas, opinion and communications factors in international politics.

-- Role of international information in US national security policy and objectives of US international information activities, including regional and specific audience objectives.

-- Roles and missions of US international information agencies and organizations.

-- Relationship of US international information to other components of US national security strategy: diplomacy, political action, economic action, military force.

-- Role of US international information organizations and facilities in situations of crisis and war.

-- Guidelines and principles of US international information in the political, economic, social, military and arms control areas, with particular attention to the issues of freedom of information and human rights.
-- The role and conduct of research on public opinion, communications and cultural factors affecting US policy concerns.

-- Programming policy and strategy relative to the instruments of international information: radio broadcasting, publications, speakers, films and TV, exhibits, the foreign press.

Management of this review will be the responsibility of the Special Planning Group, the interagency coordinating group on public diplomacy. A draft NSDD should be submitted for National Security Council consideration not later than June 1, 1983.

Ronald Reagan