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NATIONAL SECURITY  
STUDY DIRECTIVE 4-83

April 5, 1983

U.S. STRATEGY TOWARDS LIBERIA (S) u

Introduction

This National Security Study Directive establishes the terms of reference for a review of U.S. strategy towards Liberia based on an assessment of the U.S. position in the region in light of current military, economic, and political trends and an examination of available instruments of U.S. influence. The focus of the review should be the period from now through FY-85. (S) u

Objective of Review

To produce a National Security Decision Directive (NSDD), Subject: U.S. Strategy Towards Liberia, for consideration by the National Security Council and, in turn, for decision by the President. (S) u

Scope

The review will include, as a minimum, the following topics:

- An examination of US objectives in Liberia, including the importance of Liberia to significant US interests, which should be enumerated.
- An assessment of current policies and resources in terms of priority US interests and achievement of US objectives. The decisions of the April 2, 1981, SIG meeting on Liberia should be encompassed in this assessment.
- Major threats to US interests should be identified along with possible means of countering them and any time constraints.

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Declassified/Released on 3/15/95  
under provisions of E.O. 12366  
by D. Van Tassel, National Security Council  
F88-700

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2

- An examination of the probable demands on future economic and security assistance, including approximate levels and time frames. This should also include an examination of stimulating other possible donors.
- The probable course of events internally in Liberia should be examined for their impact on US interests, and strategies should be set out to deal with likely events. This includes:
  - o Whether our support of the transition to civilian government should be sustained, at what level, and through what mechanisms.
  - o How we should deal with any conflict between support to the incumbent government and the evolving democratic process.
  - o How the danger of Soviet and Libyan influence and meddling can be minimized during a transition to civilian government.
- Congressional and US domestic opinion on Liberia, with steps needed to build policy support.
- Any alternatives to the current approach; costs and advantages/disadvantages. (S) u

#### Administration

Management of the NSSD review will be the responsibility of an interagency group chaired by the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs with an NSC Staff officer serving as coordinator and with representation at the Assistant Secretary or equivalent level from the following agencies and departments: State, Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Central Intelligence Agency, Treasury, Agriculture, the Office of the Vice President, the Office of Management and Budget, Peace Corps, Agency for International Development, United States Information Agency, Commerce, National Security Agency, and Department of Transportation (for the Coast Guard). The group

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will report its findings to the National Security Council not later than June 6, 1983. (S) u

All matters relating to this NSSD will be classified Secret. Dissemination of this NSSD, subsequent study material, and the resulting draft NSDD will be handled on a strict need-to-know basis. (U)

Ronald Reagan

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