National Security Study Memorandum 59

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Special Assistant to the President for Science
and Technology
The Director, United States Arms Control and
Disarmament Agency

SUBJECT: U.S. Policy on Chemical and Biological Warfare
and Agents

The President has directed a study of U.S. policy, programs
and operational concepts with regards to both chemical and
biological warfare and agents.

The study should examine present U.S. policy and programs on
CBW, the main issues confronting that policy, and the range of
possible alternatives thereto. The analysis should delineate (1) the
nature of the threat to the U.S. and its Allies and possible alternative
approaches in meeting this threat; (2) the utility of and circumstances
for possible employment of chemical and biological agents, both
lethal and incapacitating; (3) the operational concepts relating to
possible use, testing and stockpiling; (4) the research and development
objectives; (5) the nature of and alternative approaches to the dis-
tinction between lethal and non-lethal chemical and biological agents,
including a review of current applications of U.S. policy relating to
non-lethal agents such as chemical riot control agents and chemical
defoliants; and (6) the U.S. position on arms control, including the

The study should include consideration of the effects upon U.S.
international posture in general and upon relationships with Allies
in particular; of the relevant legal questions; of the various cost factors; and of the environmental control and public affairs aspects of U.S. policy.

The President has directed that the NSC Political-Military Group perform this study and that the addressees be included in the PMG for purposes of this study. The President has authorized the PMG to establish the necessary subgroups for special or technical aspects of this study.

The report of this Group should be forwarded to the NSC Review Group by September 5, 1969.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Chairman, The Joint Chiefs of Staff