TO: The Secretary of State  
   The Secretary of Defense  
   The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: The Arab-Israeli Military Balance

The President has directed that, as a follow-up to the study produced in response to NSSM 81 and in the light of recent exchanges with Israeli intelligence representatives, further studies be prepared which will provide the following:

--Present intelligence estimates of Israeli and Arab air order of battle. The study should (1) identify U.S. and Israeli estimates and (2) where there are significant differences explain the reasons for the differences as specifically as possible.

--Present detailed intelligence assessments of the principal indicators of Arab air capability. The study should (1) identify U.S. and Israeli assessments and (2) where there are significant differences explain the reasons for the differences insofar as possible.

--An assessment of the present effective Arab-Israeli military balance. This study should present a refinement of the analysis in the NSSM 81 paper in the light of any revision in estimates of quantitative and qualitative factors and in the light of any improvement in analytical technique.

The NSC Ad Hoc Group created by NSSM 81 will be reactivated for the purpose of assembling this study. The study will be submitted by May 15 to the President's Assistant for National Security Affairs for reference to the Special Review Group.

cc: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Henry A. Kissinger