National Security Study Memorandum 192

TO: The Secretary of Defense
    The Director of Central Intelligence
    The Deputy Secretary of State
    The Director, Arms Control and
    Disarmament Agency

SUBJECT: Chemical Weapons Policy

The President has noted the NSSM 157 reports and the NSC Under
Secretaries Committee's second annual review of U.S. chemical
warfare and biological research programs -- which considered,
inter alia, the need for further examination of U.S. CW posture
options following a decision on NSSM 157.

However, prior to deciding what, if any, CW limitations are in the
interests of the United States, the President has directed a study of
United States deterrent/reitaliatory posture options for chemical
weapons.

Drawing upon past reports as appropriate, including those noted
above, this study should comprise (1) an updated summary of the
threat and of the rationale for chemical weapons; (2) an updated
review of the U.S. and allied chemical warfare capability and pro-
grams, and existing and potential constraints on these programs;
and (3) full analysis, with advantages and disadvantages, of such
CW posture options as the following:

-- Improved offensive and defensive CW capability, with particular
emphasis on planned and prospective binary capabilities and
forward deployment.

-- Reliance on the existing CW capability, including consideration
of what actions might be required to avoid significant deterioration
of this capability over time.
-- Reliance on a more limited CW retaliatory option with some improved defensive measures.

-- Reliance on improved defensive measures only (recognizing that this calls into question the retaliatory aspect of the present deterrent/retaliatory policy).

The study should also note the relationship of the above considerations and options to the arms control alternatives set forth in the NSSM 157 report.

The President has directed that this study be performed by an NSC Ad Hoc Group, comprising representatives of the addressees and chaired by a representative of the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

The study should be submitted for consideration of the Senior Review Group by March 29, 1974.

cc: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff