

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

N.S.C./Souber to Smith 09/00/2002
By LR Date 02/04/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

~~SECRET~~ GDS

March 14, 1974

National Security Study Memorandum 199

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

SUBJECT: Indian Ocean Strategy

The President has directed a review and updating of the studies concerning United States strategy for the Indian Ocean prepared in response to NSSM 104 and 110, and the follow-on studies prepared at the request of the NSC Senior Review Group after its consideration of NSSM 110. The earlier studies should be updated to reflect the policy implications of political and military developments in the area, including:

- a. the prospective reopening of the Suez Canal;
- b. Soviet naval deployments in the Indian Ocean;
- c. the developments of the past two years in US-Soviet relations as they may affect Indian Ocean policy and strategy;
- d. political developments in the Middle East; the Subcontinent, and the other littoral areas of the Indian Ocean;
- e. arms limitation proposals affecting the Indian Ocean area.

The study should propose and analyze options for strategy and policies for the Indian Ocean area to protect US interests there through the 1970s, including possible US military and political responses to Soviet Indian Ocean naval activities. This analysis should include examination of possible alternative arrangements between the US and USSR to limit naval presence in the Indian Ocean and an assessment of the pros and cons of each such possible arrangement.

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The study should be prepared by the NSC Political-Military Interdepartmental Group and should be submitted by April 20, 1974 for review by the NSC Senior Review Group prior to consideration by the President.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H. A. Kissinger", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right and ending in a small arrowhead.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff