MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

January 22, 1979

Presidential Directive/NSC - 45

TO:

The Vice President
The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director, Office of Management
and Budget
The Director, Arms Control and
Disarmament Agency
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Administrator, National Aeronautics
and Space Administration
The Director, Office of Science and
Technology Policy

SUBJECT:

Instructions to the US Delegation to the
ASAT Talks with the Soviets Commencing
January 23 in Bern (U)

The objectives of the second round of ASAT talks with the
Soviets are:

-- To seek clarification of Soviet views regarding
the possibilities for (1) finding a verifiable
means for effectively eliminating their current
orbital interceptors, and (2) suspending
ASAT interceptor testing. (U)

-- To continue informal discussions aimed at identifying
and clarifying areas of mutual understanding that
might be codified in an initial ASAT agreement. (U)

In discussing the question of dismantling, you may draw on
the ideas contained in the interagency study. However, you
must make it absolutely clear that any suggestions you make
in no way constitute a proposal. (U)
In discussing the issue of a testing suspension, you should informally suggest a one-year suspension of testing at all altitudes. You should also make it clear to the Soviets that investigating the possibility of limits on high energy laser ASAT applications should get high priority in future talks. (β)

After discussing these specific issues with the Soviets, you should send me your assessment of the Soviets' interest in negotiating a two-part initial agreement consisting of a ban on damage, destruction, and unauthorized displacement of each other's satellites, plus a one-year suspension of ASAT interceptor testing. Except for the changes implied by the above instructions, the instructions for the first round remain in force. (β)

Zbigniew Brzezinski