

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 14, 1979

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**UNCLASSIFIED**Presidential Directive/NSC-50

TO:           The Vice President  
              The Secretary of State  
              The Secretary of Defense

ALSO:        The Director, Arms Control and  
                  Disarmament Agency  
              The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
              The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT:     Arms Control Decision Process (C)

I do not wish the SALT II ratification process to impede consideration of our approach and strategy toward the SALT III negotiations and all other arms control proposals and negotiations now pending. We should make every effort to move forward on arms control without unnecessary delay. In this context, however, we must ensure that all arms control proposals are fully supportive of our national security. (C)

I therefore direct that any new proposal, as well as any significant modification of our present position on current arms control negotiations, be tested against the following criteria:

- (1) Does it contribute to achieving our defense and force posture goals?
- (2) Are its foreign policy implications constructive in terms of deterring and restraining our adversaries, supporting our allies and alliances, and furthering other foreign policy interests?
- (3) Is its arms control rationale compelling, i.e., does it promise to limit arms competition and reduce the likelihood of conflict? (C)

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by D. Van Tassel, National Security Council

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Before an interagency position is put forward for my approval on any arms control question, you should each be satisfied that you have fully considered the position in the light of all three of the above criteria. The SCC shall implement procedures to assure that these criteria are satisfied. (C)

*Jimmy Carter*

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