



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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August 15, 1969

TO : The Secretary
The Under Secretary
The Under Secretary for Political Affairs
The Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Affairs

THROUGH: S/S

FROM : J/PM - *W* Ronald I. Spiers

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

1. NSSM 3 (World-wide U.S. Strategy and Force Posture)

After a hiatus of several months, this study is active again. Although the strategic portion of the study was completed in June, the portion dealing with General Purpose Forces (and a good 2/3 of the Defense budget) has never been completed. However, we have this week received a draft of the final report dealing with General Purpose Forces and the fiscal implications of alternative strategies. The Working Group will meet next week to review this report. The Review Group is scheduled to meet August 26. This study is certain to raise a number of key issues regarding the future size of the Defense budget, the shape of our military forces and the extent to which we will be able to support foreign commitments with military power in the future.

2. Nuclear Tests on Amchitka Island

The Atomic Energy Commission has submitted its formal request for approval to conduct a nuclear site calibration test of a yield of 1.2 megatons on Amchitka in the Aleutians on about October 1. The request will be reviewed by the Under Secretaries Committee scheduled to meet August 28 to consider a recommendation to the President.

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3. British Request Five-Year Extension of the Materials Provision of the Atomic Energy Defense Bilateral

On August 14 the British delivered their formal request to extend for five years (until December 31, 1974) that provision of the US-UK Atomic Energy Defense Bilateral under which the U.S. provides them with certain nuclear and non-nuclear parts and materials for the British atomic weapons program. We will shortly submit a request for Circular 175 authority to complete the negotiations for this extension.

4. NSSM 59 (Chemical and Biological Warfare)

We have completed a first draft of the summary report on this study. The IPMG will meet to review it next week. We still hope to meet the deadline for submission of this report to the NSC by September 5. However, there are a number of complex and controversial policy issues which will take some time to resolve. Among the key issues in this study will be: (a) whether we need a stockpile of lethal chemical agents as a deterrent; (b) whether we should continue to stockpile lethal agents overseas; (c) whether we should continue to pursue a BW program except for R&D; and (d) whether the U.S. should submit the Geneva Protocol for ratification and, if so, with what interpretations or reservations.

5. British Charge Delivers Letter from Prime Minister on Nuclear Consultation

On August 13 Charge Tomkins delivered to the Acting Secretary a letter dated August 4 from Prime Minister Wilson to President Nixon suggesting reaffirmation of the traditional understanding with regard to consultation on use of nuclear weapons. The letter has been forwarded to the White House. The British Embassy is forwarding to London a suggestion made by the Acting Secretary that the understanding might perhaps be incorporated into a permanent exchange of notes.

J/PM:AllOfficers:mj

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