

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

January 6, 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT


At its 31st Meeting the National Security Council adopted for your consideration the enclosed report on "Removal and Demolition of Oil Facilities, Equipment and Supplies in the Middle East" (NSC 26/2).

The National Security Council recommends that you approve the enclosed report and direct that it be implemented by all appropriate Executive Departments and Agencies of the United States Government under the coordination of the Secretary of State.



SIDNEY W. SOUERS
Executive Secretary

APPROVED:


HARRY S. TRUMAN

Date: January 10, 1949

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Authority NLT 2003-003 #3
By SO NARA, Date 3/12/10

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NSC 26/2

COPY NO. 1

A REPORT
TO THE
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

by

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

on

SANACC 398/4

December 30, 1948

WASHINGTON

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority NLT 2003-003 #3
By SO RARA, Date 2/12/10

December 30, 1948

NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

to the

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

on

REMOVAL AND DEMOLITION OF OIL FACILITIES,
EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

References: A. NSC 26/1 and NSC 26
B. NSC Action No. 103
C. SANACC 398/4

The enclosed report on the subject, prepared by the NSC Staff with the advice and assistance of representatives of the Departments of State, the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force and of the National Security Resources Board and the Central Intelligence Agency, is submitted herewith for consideration by the National Security Council.

The report comprises the Conclusions of NSC 26, modified in accord with the recommendations of the Secretary of State in NSC 26/1 pursuant to NSC Action No. 103.

It is recommended that, if the enclosed report is adopted by the Council, it be submitted to the President for consideration with the recommendation that he approve it and direct that it be implemented by all appropriate Executive Departments and Agencies of the U. S. Government under the coordination of the Secretary of State.

It is suggested that special security precautions be taken in the handling of the enclosed report.

JAMES S. LAY, JR.
Acting Executive Secretary

Distribution:

The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Secretary of the Army
The Secretary of the Navy
The Secretary of the Air Force
The Chairman, National Security
Resources Board

D R A F T

REPORT BY THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

on

REMOVAL AND DEMOLITION OF OIL FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1. Plans for removal of key parts and supplies and demolition of surface facilities of Middle Eastern oil installations are in no way to be construed as lessening the importance of holding the Middle Eastern oil areas if such action be considered feasible and in accordance with accepted strategic concepts.

In view of the essential nature of Middle Eastern oil to the United States, removal and demolition plans for the Middle East oil fields shall be implemented only as a last resort.

2. The Secretary of State in cooperation with the Secretary of Defense should initiate high level secret conversations with the British Government concerning the possibility of working out a common plan for removal and demolition programs in those oil-producing areas of the Middle East where the British either control the foreign relations or have entire or partial ownership of the operating companies.

3. The interests of the United States dictate that prior to the occupation of the Saudi Arabian oil fields and facilities by an enemy the refinery and other surface facilities, stocks and equipment or such portions thereof as would render them unusable by the enemy, should be removed or destroyed.

look for advice and instructions.

8. The materials used for the demolitions should be located in the oil fields without delay in such quantities or in such additional increments as will not arouse suspicion. The oil companies should be requested to locate the materials so as to facilitate the accomplishment of the demolitions when necessary. The United States Government should, if necessary, facilitate the acquisition of these materials.

9. The Secretary of State should designate an officer of the United States Government at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, as his representative to determine that an adequate organization has been established; that the organization is properly trained; and that the required materials are on hand. The oil company should be requested to agree to the assignment of duties to, and to assure the cooperation of, its personnel in Saudi Arabia.

10. All military forces of the United States stationed in Saudi Arabia and all facilities at their disposal should be made available to assist in the preparation or execution of plans envisaged in this paper so far as possible consistent with their primary mission.

11. The practical difficulties involved in plugging the wells as a means of conservation during enemy occupation require that the subject receive further study, which should not, however, delay planning for removal of key parts and supplies and demolition of surface facilities. The Secretary of State should continue the study of plugging, as well as the feasibility of employing other

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means including radiological measures for denying the use of the oil fields to the enemy, and make appropriate recommendations to the National Security Council.

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