

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NSC/Southern Smith 09/06/02
By WJR Date 02/13/07

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 20, 1969

National Security Decision Memorandum 2

TO: The Vice President
The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Director of the US Information Agency
The Director of the Office of Emergency
Preparedness

SUBJECT: Reorganization of the National Security Council System

To assist me in carrying out my responsibilities for the conduct of national security affairs, I hereby direct that the National Security Council system be reorganized as follows:

A. The National Security Council (NSC)

The functions, membership and responsibilities of the National Security Council shall be as set forth in the National Security Act of 1947, as amended.

The National Security Council shall be the principal forum for consideration of policy issues requiring Presidential determination. The nature of the issues to be considered may range from current crises and immediate operational problems to middle and long-range planning.

The Council shall meet regularly, and discussion will--except in unusual circumstances--be limited to agenda subjects.^{1/} The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, at my direction and in consultation with the Secretaries of State and Defense, shall be responsible for determining the agenda and ensuring that the necessary

^{1/} The Director of Central Intelligence will brief the NSC on each agenda item prior to its consideration.

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Info to: Thomas AGM
AIB
BOB Commerce

papers are prepared. Other members of the NSC may propose items for inclusion on the agenda. The Assistant to the President shall be assisted by a National Security Council Staff, as provided by law.

B. The National Security Council Review Group

An NSC Review Group is hereby established to examine papers prior to their submission to the NSC. These papers may be received from NSC Interdepartmental Groups^{2/}, from NSC Ad Hoc Groups^{2/}, or from Departments (at their discretion).

The role of the Review Group shall be to review papers to be discussed by the NSC to assure that: 1) the issue under consideration is worthy of NSC attention; 2) all realistic alternatives are presented; 3) the facts, including cost implications, and all department and agency views are fairly and adequately set out. The Review Group shall also be empowered to assign action to the NSC Interdepartmental Groups or NSC Ad Hoc Groups, as appropriate.

The membership of the Review Group shall include:

- The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (Chairman);
- The representative of the Secretary of State;
- The representative of the Secretary of Defense;
- The representative of the Director of Central Intelligence;
- The representative of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Depending on the issue under consideration, other agencies shall be represented at the discretion of the Chairman.

C. The National Security Council Under Secretaries Committee

The NSC Under Secretaries Committee shall consider:

1. Issues which are referred to it by the NSC Review Group.

^{2/} Discussed below.