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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

1 MAY 1969

In reply refer to:  
I-22152/69

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Proposed Memorandum for the President on the Seabed  
Arms Control Treaty Proposal

Subject memorandum sets forth DOD preferences for the wording of the operative paragraphs of a seabed arms control treaty proposal. These preferences have been developed with the assistance of the Joint Chiefs of Staff against the contingency that for political reasons the President might find it necessary to authorize a treaty proposal.

We recognize that this proposed wording presents a very tight and restricted opening position but believe that such a position is desirable in light of the proposal tabled by the Soviets on 18 March which calls for a ban on all military activities beyond the limits of territorial waters (12 miles in the Soviets' case), with a right of reciprocal inspection. We believe that a U.S. proposal of this nature, in opposition to the Soviet draft, will bring about a meaningful discussion of the factors vital to an acceptable agreement, a discussion which the JCS and OSD have long held should be undertaken in the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee (ENDC) prior to the consideration of any specific proposal by that body.

Dr. Bob Frosh, the ASN (R&D), who has been closely involved in this matter for the past 19 months, concurs in this approach and in the proposed memorandum. General Wheeler also concurs.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the attached memorandum for the President.

*G. Warren Austin*

Attachment  
Memorandum for the  
President

- Copies sent:
- Orig - Addressed
- cc - Dept/SecDef
- cc - OSD Files
- cc - SAC
- cc - ISA Read File
- cc - Comback
- cc - Hold
- cc - SD-ICP Chron.

Prop: Copying/orig/  
1 May 69/AC-ISA/VA/SD  
SD-ICP/AC

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*Attach 6a*