MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: Proposed NSSM on U.S. Policy and Programs
        Relating to Chemical and Biological Warfare and Agents

The attached NSSM requests a basic study of U.S. policy, programs
and operational concepts relating to chemical and biological warfare
and agents. The study requests a comprehensive review of present
U.S. positions, including analysis of the main issues confronting
U.S. policy in this field, and of possible alternative approaches
thereto.

Secretary Laird has recommended that such a study be initiated
"immediately", and the Department of State has requested a review
of CBW policy and programs "as soon as possible".

Both interim policy guidelines on CBW and public posture guidelines
have been in a state of flux due to the fact of substantial disagreement
between departments on some fundamental aspects of the subject. In
the light of the uncertainty surrounding U.S. policy and programs in
this area, and in light of the increasing public concern and attention
being given the subject, I believe that an overall study of present
policy and possible alternatives is required.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve the attached NSSM.

APPROVE: 5/28

DISAPPROVE:  

SECRET