

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL



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ACTION  
November 12, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: K. Wayne Smith *KWS*

SUBJECT: Clearance of Public Statements on Nuclear Test  
Ban Policy

Our nuclear test ban policy is currently under review in the NSSM 128 study. This subject is also getting increasing attention in the Congress, the Geneva Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and the UN General Assembly.

Our declaratory policy is that the U.S. continues to support an adequately verified comprehensive ban on the testing of nuclear weapons. "Adequate verification" repeatedly has been linked with a requirement for on-site inspection. The Soviets also publicly endorse a comprehensive test ban, but have maintained that national means are sufficient for verification.

The U.S. position on on-site inspections has been weakened by advances in seismic discrimination technology to the point that domestic and international pressures are mounting to challenge the necessity and efficacy of on-site inspections and supporting national means of verification of a comprehensive test ban. As the verification problem is perceived to recede in significance, pressures will increase for the U.S. to change its position and get on with negotiations of a test ban.

Therefore, it becomes important that official public statements and instructions to delegations concerning nuclear test ban policy avoid prejudicing the U.S. position until the NSSM 128 study is completed and appropriate policy decisions are made. The President directed that government agency testimony on seismic technology advances before the Joint Atomic Energy Committee be cleared at the White House. It is now timely and appropriate that we bring U.S. delegation statements and instructions concerning nuclear test ban policy at the UN and the forthcoming session of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament under the same review.

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RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum to the Secretary of State and the Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency directing that delegation statements and instructions concerning this subject be cleared at the White House (Tab A).

Marshall Wright concurs.

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