

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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April 22, 1971

National Security Study Memorandum 126

TO:           The Secretary of State  
              The Secretary of Defense  
              The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
              The Director, Office of Emergency Preparedness  
              The Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
              The Director, Office of Management and Budget  
              The Director, Office of Telecommunications Policy

SUBJECT:    Continuity of Government

The President has directed that a study be undertaken to determine the appropriate military command and control concepts, facilities and related procedures to support National Command Authorities over the next decade in the event of either general nuclear war or crisis conditions which could lead to nuclear attack on the United States.

The intent of this study is to complement work already completed pursuant to NSSM 58 on continuity of civil government with the objective of combining the results of both studies into a balanced set of considerations and options for both military and civil government support of the President or his successor. This study should be limited in the following manner:

- Only military command and control systems and organizations in direct support of National Command Authority in the event of general nuclear war should be included.
- The details of war plans will be excluded.
- The focus will be on appropriate support from the Executive Branch to the President or his successor and not on explicit actions to be taken by the Chief Executive.

The study should reexamine the desirability of present concepts, facilities and related procedures with particular emphasis on facilities in the light of the changed strategic balance and its implications, the possibility of an NCA antiballistic missile site, and other relevant work already completed in other NSSMs. Specific attention should be given to present relocation concepts.

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The study should be undertaken by an Ad Hoc group chaired by a representative of the Secretary of Defense and including representatives of the addressees plus the Military Assistant to the President and the NSC staff.

The study should be submitted to the Senior Review Group by June 1, 1971.



Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Military Assistant to the President

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