

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

NSE/Soubers to Smith 09/06/2002
By as Date 02/17/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

~~TOP SECRET~~

July 28, 1972

National Security Study Memorandum 157

TO: The Secretary of State
 The Secretary of Defense
 The Director of Central Intelligence
 The Director, Arms Control and Disarmament
 Agency
 The President's Science Adviser

SUBJECT: Review of United States Position on Chemical
 Weapons Prohibitions

The President has directed a prompt review of the United States position on negotiations regarding chemical weapons at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva. This review should focus on the advantages and disadvantages of the present U. S. position and of possible alternatives, with specific analysis of proposals aimed at achieving broad international restraints on the production and transfer of lethal chemicals for weapons purposes.

In addition to defining the basic and collateral provisions of such proposals, the study should specifically assess methods of verification, related procedures and necessary constraints in terms of their effectiveness, their acceptability to the United States, and their negotiability.

This review should also include analysis of related courses of action, such as calling for a moratorium in lieu of or in conjunction with treaty negotiations.

This review should be conducted by an Ad Hoc Group chaired by a representative of the Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and comprised of representatives of the addressees of this memorandum and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The study should be ready for consideration by the Senior Review Group by August 8, 1972.

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Both the fact and nature of this review should be closely held, and distribution of this memorandum should be restricted to those persons essential to the completion of the study.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H. A. Kissinger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Henry A. Kissinger