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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

CM 1631-77
23 September 1977

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: OCT 0 8 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: SALT (U)

1. (~~TS~~) During the NSC meeting on 6 September, it was my understanding that the President fully understood the JCS view that the United States should take no new initiative in SALT at this time, but if that view was unacceptable, the Joint Chiefs of Staff could support Package 1, that is, 650-700 Mirved ICBMs, a 1200 MIRV ceiling, and 250 ALCM carrying bombers -- if the option included the variant stipulating a 3000 km ALCM range. All these provisions would hold during the period of the protocol; only the 1200 MIRV limit would have been automatically carried forward into the treaty.

2. (~~TS~~) During the course of subsequent discussions at the NSC meeting, a four-step negotiating ladder was put forward; this was to be reduced to writing and circulated for comment. Before JCS comments on the resulting three negotiating options could be forwarded, a decision paper outlining the plan of action for the Gromyko visit was made known to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In view of the NSC discussion, I accept that the decision was taken with full knowledge of the JCS views presented at the NSC meeting. However, to complete the record in terms of the tasking set forth at the NSC meeting, attached is a detailed analysis containing JCS views on the three options. These views should be of value in future SALT deliberations.

Office of the Secretary of Defense 5 U.S.C. § 552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 08 OCT 2015 Authority: EO 13526
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MDR: 15-M-1646

GEORGE S. BROWN, General, USAF
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Attachment
as

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