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INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY POLICY

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: APR 02 2018

In reply refer to:
I-20944/82

20 August 1982

Cap:

The serious issue that is not addressed in this memorandum is the political quandry into which Nitze, by his wholly unauthorized departure from his instructions, has placed the President.

I suspect this is a matter that ought to be left for discussion between you and the President. It seems to me that the President will only be able to negotiate downward from the Nitze package unless he instructs Nitze to withdraw it. And this is so whether or not some of the features of the Nitze proposal are ones he might subsequently decide he can live with as part of a negotiated settlement.

In the meantime there is a serious danger to the credibility of our position both in and out of the negotiations if word leaks out that a package was available to the President and he refused to take it. We need to consider carefully all of these political ramifications. I will provide you with a memo addressing them on Monday.

I believe that "further study" of the Nitze proposal as a national policy carries significant risk. Its all right for us in OSD to study the detailed implications of the Nitze proposal (and we are doing so on a very close-hold basis). But if the inter-agency process studies it before it has been formally withdrawn, it will acquire a legitimacy that it does not now have and we will, in practical effect, have made all the concessions the proposal entails.

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Date: 02 APR 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + S USC 552

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Reason: _____

MDR: 18 -M- 0670

Richard Perle

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