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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: APR 12 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL POWELL

Subject: Presidential Decisions on Soviet Arms Control  
Compliance -- INFORMATION MEMORANDUM (87)

(1) The President has made highly important decisions concerning the seven compliance issues now under consideration by the USG: (A) that the Soviet Union has violated a number of arms control treaties--the Biological Weapons Convention, the exercise notification procedures of the Helsinki Final Act, the ABM Treaty, the SALT II prohibition against encryption that impedes verification, and--based upon the one flight test for which data is available--the SALT II requirement that the SS-X-25 have a RV to throw-weight ratio of at least 50%; (B) that they have probably violated the SALT II SS-16 deployment prohibition and the prohibition on more than one new ICBM in the testing of the SS-X-25; (C) that Soviet nuclear testing is a likely violation of the TTBT limit on nuclear testing of 150 kilotons.

(2) We regard the President's decisions as very reasonable ones which reflect a careful and measured judgment based upon the available evidence. No agency should feel uncomfortable with the President's characterization of these findings. You will note that these decisions are also nearly identical to the conclusions of the GAC on these issues.

(3) The President has decided on a low key public relations approach designed to minimize the possibility that these disclosures can be deemed political or suggestive of a desire on his part to "kill arms control." This strategy is to be implemented by: (1) Carefully crafted press backgrounders, an unclassified fact sheet, and Q's and A's. (2) Classified consultations which will begin next week with the Allies and key Congressional figures. (3) The President will briefly mention the issue of Soviet compliance in his forthcoming speech on U.S.-Soviet relations. (4) A classified findings report will be submitted to Congress shortly after it reconvenes.

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 12 APR 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + SASC 555a  
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