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

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

JCSM-365-81
4 November 1981

USSR 388.3

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: US SALT Policy and Existing Agreements (U)

1. (S) The Joint Chiefs of Staff have reviewed their position* on SALT I and SALT II in the context of the President's strategic force modernization decisions. With those decisions the United States has as its first priority begun redressing the current military imbalance. It is now appropriate to determine how arms control can contribute to attaining the desired future strategic balance. To that end, the Joint Chiefs of Staff believe that the Interagency Group should be encouraged to complete its study of the basic considerations for a US SALT policy as quickly as possible.
2. (S) The Joint Chiefs of Staff also believe that, until the Interagency Group study is completed, it remains in the US interest in the near term to continue to take actions that will avoid undercutting the SALT I and SALT II agreements, so long as the Soviet Union exercises similar restraint and so long as those provisions remain consistent with necessary force modernization. US SALT policy formulation should not be preempted by programmatic actions without regard to existing agreements but, rather, formulated as a conscious result of the ongoing long-term policy review.
3. (S) The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that, pending the development of the US SALT policy, programmatic actions that undercut existing agreements be avoided.

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For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

David C Jones

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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DAVID C. JONES, General, USAF
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

* JCSM-115-81, 10 April 1981, "Analysis of SALT Negotiations (U)"

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