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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

The Special Assistant's Office

10/20

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: JUL 08 2019

34

(34)

MANTY BERMAN  
DIRECTOR, WHMO

ATTACHED IS THE PROPOSED MEMO  
TO THE PRESIDENT ON [REDACTED]

PLEASE SEE THE P.2 WORDS WHICH  
INDICATE [REDACTED] CAN PROCEED  
FIRST.

OKAY? COMMENTS?

VR,

Col Neil Beck

UPON REMOVAL OF ATTACHMENTS THIS  
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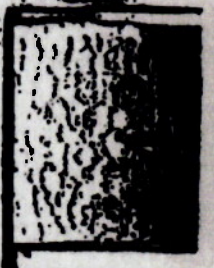
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JS 33(b)(5)(8)



14-M-4213



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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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DRAFT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Strategic C3 Connectivity Studies (U)

(S) Last year I asked the Chairman, JCS to analyze the capability and effectiveness of the command, control, and communications systems and procedures to direct the strategic forces in the event of a nuclear attack. The resulting Strategic Connectivity studies concluded that significant weaknesses existed in the capability to execute our war plans. Many of the shortcomings have been corrected. However, implementation of two recommendations to enhance connectivity require your concurrence:

(1) Basing the alert National Emergency Airborne Command Post (NEACP), [REDACTED]

(2) [REDACTED]

(S) Basing the alert National Emergency Airborne Command Post (NEACP) currently stationed [REDACTED] would significantly reduce its vulnerability to attack by SLBMs and thus improve the probability of survival of a national military command and control capability. Thus, it would add to deterrence by improving the capability of the US to respond to a surprise Soviet attack. It is essential that we have high confidence in the survivability of the NEACP since, in addition

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[REDACTED]

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I recommend that you approve the following proposals to alleviate these deficiencies:

[REDACTED]

To quickly [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] could proceed as the initial program. A discussion of the costs and implications of these proposals is attached.

The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff and I believe that implementation of the foregoing actions will enhance national security. The very existence of these vulnerabilities makes the US nuclear deterrent less credible and effective. The cost of these corrective actions is small, and I recommend your early approval.

Attachment

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 18 Jul 2019 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. 8.552  
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