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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: SEP 10 2019

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#39

TALKING PAPER FOR  
BREAKFAST WITH SECRETARY HAIG ON 13 AUGUST

(8/13/81)

SUBJECT: Nuclear Weapons Employment Policy (U)

(S) A draft NSDD has been developed to replace PD-59, Nuclear Weapons Employment Policy, which I intend to forward to the President in the near future.

- Basically, the NSDD continues the nuclear employment policy developed by the Nixon Administration and reaffirmed by Presidents Ford and Carter.

- The NSDD, like the precursor PD-59, asks for the preparation of several options for the U.S. response to Soviet nuclear attack.

-- In particular, employment options have to be available

-- If deterrence fails, the U.S. must be able to deny the Soviets a military victory at any level of conflict and force earliest termination of hostilities on terms favorable to the U.S.

- Emphasis is placed on [redacted] warfighting capability - including a protracted nuclear conflict.

(S) The draft NSDD provides more precise guidance in the following areas:

- The [redacted]

- More carefully worded guidance on launch-under-attack.

- U.S. weapons acquisition policy must be clearly linked to and supportive of our nuclear employment policy.

(S) Recalling the extensive confusion which followed issuance of PD-59 last July, the following is proposed:

- NSC, State and Defense should downplay, in the event of public inquiries, the significance of the new NSDD, stating correctly that it is essentially a continuation of previous policy.

Forwarded to Secy  
Date: 10 Sep 2019  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
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