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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

National Security Study
Directive No. 6-83

April 18, 1983

DECLASSIFIED

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BY CH NARA DATE 1/9/24

STUDY ON ELIMINATING THE THREAT POSED
BY BALLISTIC MISSILES (S)

In NSDD 85, I stated my desire to decrease our reliance on offensive nuclear weapons and to increase the contribution made by defensive systems to U.S. security and that of our allies. The study called for here will begin to move us toward that goal by exploring the utility of defense against ballistic missiles as a component of national security strategy. (S)

Objective

The study directed by this NSSD will assess the role defensive system deployments could play in future security strategy, and will define a research and development program aimed at an ultimate goal of eliminating the threat posed by nuclear ballistic missiles. This will be accomplished in two tasks: Future Security Strategy and Defense Technology Plan. (S)

Future Security Strategy (C)

This task will evaluate the military and political requirements systems to defend against ballistic missiles must meet in order to allow increased reliance on defensive systems and decreased reliance on offensive nuclear systems in a future U.S. deterrence posture. The study will focus on the military/political aspects of defense against ballistic missiles for the period ca. 2000 and beyond. A comprehensive examination will be made of the possible role of such defenses in deterring attack against and in defending US and Allied territory and forces, to include: (S)

- o Develop criteria for preserving stable deterrence based on increased reliance on defensive systems and decreasing reliance on offensive nuclear weapons. Establish mission needs for defense against ballistic missiles as determined by these criteria. (S)
- o Based on these mission needs, postulate system concepts and establish performance requirements. (S)
- o Examine sensitivity to alternative Soviet offensive and defensive postures of a U.S. postured to defend against ballistic missiles. (S)

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- o Review Soviet policy, doctrine, and technical capabilities concerning ballistic missile defense and changes that may result from the initiative outlined in NSDD-85. ~~(S)~~
- o Examine influence of the deterrence criteria developed above on U.S. worldwide defense responsibilities including requirements for conventional forces. ~~(S)~~
- o Examine foreign policy issues and recommend means for their resolution. ~~(S)~~
- o Analyze the role arms control agreements would play in any shift to reliance on systems for defense against ballistic missiles. ~~(S)~~

The study will examine vulnerabilities or potential instabilities that could be present during a period of transition from exclusive reliance on offensive retaliation to heavy reliance on defensive systems, and suggest measures for dealing with any such problems. ~~(S)~~

This study will be submitted to the President by October 1, 1983, and will be updated annually thereafter. ~~(S)~~

Defense Technology Plan ~~(C)~~

In this task the state of knowledge regarding technology applicable to defense against ballistic missiles will be reviewed in order to identify the most promising directions for future scientific/technological progress to underwrite military potential. Effectiveness and not potential for early deployment will be the important criterion. All technically credible approaches should be considered, ranging from systems capable of engaging ballistic missiles in boost phase to terminal defenses and appropriate combinations thereof. The study will have two principal objectives: ~~(C)~~

1. To recommend to the National Security Council by June 15, 1983 appropriate additional funding levels for FY 1985 (and any necessary adjustments for FY 1984). Recommendations related to space capabilities will also be incorporated in the National Space Strategy, NSSD 13-82. ~~(U)~~

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2. To develop a long-term R&D program plan aimed at developing and validating technologies required for systems militarily effective in defending against ballistic missiles. The basic plan should describe an aggressive, technically responsible program. In addition, alternative plans which assume constrained resources should also be prepared. ~~(S)~~

The long-term R&D program plan is due to the President by October 1, 1983, and will be updated annually thereafter. ~~(S)~~

Organization

The Senior Interdepartmental Group-Defense Policy, under the auspices of the NSC, is assigned the responsibility for carrying out this effort. It is requested that specific organizational arrangements and agency membership be submitted for review by the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs before being made final. ~~(S)~~

Ronald Reagan

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