

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 14, 1983

NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION  
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 90

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United States Arctic Policy

The Interagency Arctic Policy Group's report on United States Arctic policy has been reviewed. It is clear that the United States has unique and critical interests in the Arctic region related directly to national defense, resource and energy development, scientific inquiry, and environmental protection.

In light of the region's growing importance, it warrants priority attention by the United States. I have decided that U.S. Arctic policy will continue to be based on the following major elements:

- o protecting essential security interests in the Arctic region, including preserving the principle of freedom of the seas and superjacent airspace;
- o supporting sound and rational development in the Arctic region, while minimizing adverse effects on the environment;
- o promoting scientific research in fields contributing to knowledge of the Arctic environment or of aspects of science which are most advantageously studied in the Arctic; and
- o promoting mutually beneficial international cooperation in the Arctic to achieve the above objectives.

The Interagency Arctic Policy Group (IAPG), reporting to the National Security Council, will be responsible for reviewing and coordinating implementation of this policy and U.S. international activities and programs in the Arctic. These responsibilities will not include purely domestic matters. In discharging its responsibilities, however, the IAPG will ensure close consultation with agencies concerned with those domestic matters.

The IAPG will give priority attention to the following reviews:

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by L. Salvetti, National Security Council

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- o How should U.S. activities in the Arctic region be coordinated with those of other countries bordering on the Arctic to serve best U.S. Arctic interests? This will include consideration of possible actions for increased cooperation.
- o What federal services may be necessary for the United States to provide in the Arctic region over the next decade and what are their relative priorities? This will take into account projected developments in the Arctic that could have an important impact upon federal agencies with statutory responsibility for areas such as search and rescue; protecting life, property, resources and wildlife; enforcing U.S. laws and international treaties; and promoting commerce. This review will also recognize that resource development is primarily a private sector activity.

These reviews should be completed and forwarded for consideration by March 15, 1984.

*Ronald Reagan*

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