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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

National Security Study  
Directive No. 6-83

April 18, 1983

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

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) u

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) u

Future Security Strategy (S) u

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1.3(a)(1)  
2.5(5)

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Declassify on: OADR

Partially Declassified/Released on 3/15/95  
under provisions of E.O. 12356  
by D. Van Tassel, National Security Council  
F88-700

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

Defense Technology Plan *STW*

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: *STW*

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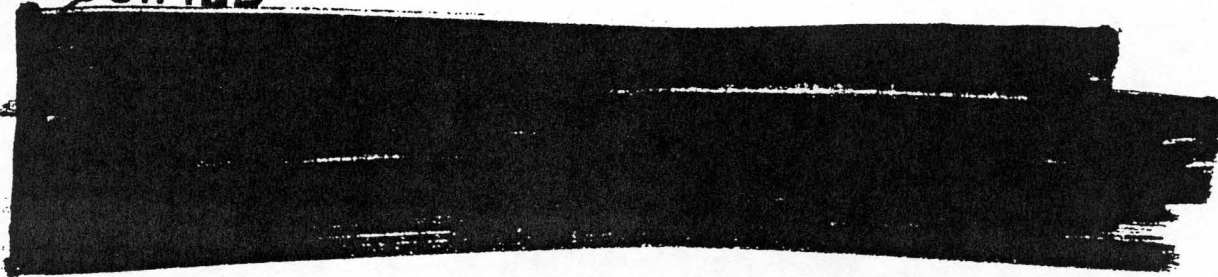
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The long-term R&D program plan is due to the President by October 1, 1983, and will be updated annually thereafter. (U)

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. (U)

Ronald Reagan

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