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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 252

December 24, 1986

ICBM MODERNIZATION (X)

[REDACTED]

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(S)

NSDD-227 directed the DOD to consider certain configurations of the small ICBM as options for development. The following guidance supersedes the direction in [REDACTED] and NSDD-227 pertaining to ICBM modernization. (S)

The modernization program outlined in this directive will guide the continued high priority modernization of our land-based ICBM forces. (S)

1. Peacekeeper

The Department of Defense will immediately place the concept of garrison rail mobile basing into full-scale development. The rail garrison system will be designed to respond to changing threats and will have the capability to operate out of garrison or on extended deployments to satellite bases or in continuous movement. Research on all other basing modes except as prescribed by law will cease immediately. (TS)

The development of garrison rail mobile basing will be implemented at an appropriate pace in order to be able to support a production decision on future Peacekeeper deployments in FY 1989 in support of a 1991 IOC. This development program will include the construction and test deployment of a prototype train in FY 1987. The program will also include a special study on command, control, and communications requirements for garrison basing and for covert deployment of the trains in times of crisis. Based on this study, the Secretary of Defense shall make appropriate recommendations to me on procedures for deployment of the missile trains from garrison in times of crisis and will be submitted to me by 1 October 1987. (TS)

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~~Declassify on: OADR~~

Partially Declassified/Released on 5/14/93
under provisions of E.O. 12356
by S. Tuley, National Security Council

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The operational concept of garrison rail mobile will involve the deployment of at least 50 Peacekeeper missiles on rail cars garrisoned on military reservations in times of peace.

[REDACTED] As design of the cars progresses, consideration will be given to ways the cars could be constructed to be functionally and observably different for other rail cars if a future arms control agreement so required. The DOD will develop an appropriate number of Secret satellite bases that can be used to support deployment in times of crisis.

[REDACTED] While the Soviets would be able to determine the size and peacetime configuration of the rail-mobile missile force, the ability to deploy the force quickly to covert sites in time of crisis would provide a high degree of survivability. (TS)

The primary staffing of the locomotives will be through the use of appropriately cleared commercial railroad engineers and other crew members as required. Missile control and security will be maintained by Air Force crews. Backup staffing of locomotives will be by Air Force crews if required. (S)

The single point of contact with the rail industry is the Federal Railroad Administration. The Air Force, as executive agent for the DOD, working with the office of the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council and the Office of Management and Budget, will execute an appropriate memorandum of agreement (MOA) to ensure that coordination of rail safety issues and contacts with the rail industry are coordinated in the overall best interests of the country. This MOA will be submitted to me for approval no later than 15 April 1987. (S)

The main operating base for Peacekeeper garrison rail mobile is to be at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming where we already have a sizeable investment in Peacekeeper support facilities, with garrisons based both there and at other Defense installations. After considering the alternatives for satisfying the military-related requirements, I have decided that the candidate installations for locating garrisons should include:

Barksdale AFB, LA
Blytheville AFB, AK
Dyess AFB, TX
Fairchild AFB, WA
Grand Forks AFB, ND

Little Rock AFB, AK
Malmstrom AFB, MT
Minot AFB, ND
Whiteman AFB, MO
Wurtsmith AFB, MI (S)

These candidates are to be evaluated over the coming months on a high priority basis in order to determine their suitability for this program. Accordingly, preparation of an environmental impact statement is to be immediately undertaken to aid in final selections and the development of appropriate

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mitigations. Comments from the affected governors, members of Congress and the public are to be sought. (S)

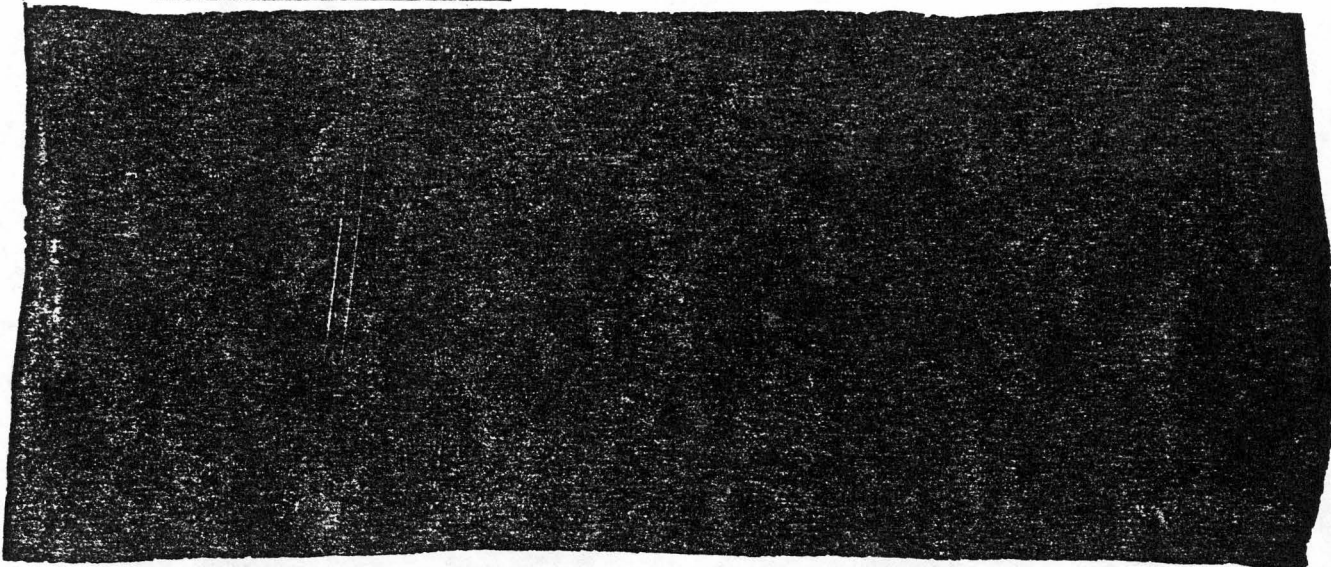
2. Small ICBM

The DOD will immediately place the SICBM into full-scale development. The SICBM baseline configuration will be a small single warhead missile which will weigh approximately 37,000 pounds. The development of the SICBM will be implemented at a pace that will support an FY 1989 production decision and an initial operational capability (IOC) in 1992. (TS)

The SICBM will be designed to operate from a hard mobile launcher that will be deployed in two basing modes. The initial basing mode will be on Minuteman bases starting with Malmstrom AFB, Montana. After activation of the missiles in Montana, follow-on systems will be deployed at Minuteman facilities at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming (with locations extending into Nebraska and Colorado) and Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. Later missiles should be deployed in random movement on large tracts of government land located in the Southwestern portion of the country. This could involve deployments at the Texas/New Mexico complex, consisting of Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, and at the Arizona complex, consisting of the Luke Air Force Range and Yuma Proving Ground. Holloman AFB and the Yuma Proving Ground would serve as the main operating base for the respective complexes. To aid in the making of site-specific decisions, a final environmental impact statement covering deployment and peacetime operations at each of the selected areas, and possible mitigation actions, is to be prepared with the benefit of public comment. (TS)

The DOD, working with the Air Force, will recommend to me an appropriate name for the SICBM by 1 April 1987. (S)

3. Future Requirements

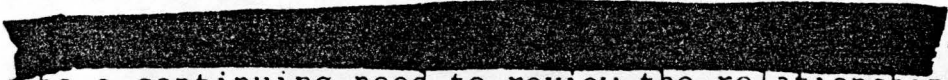


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 There will also be a continuing need to review the relationship between these systems and our arms control objectives as the specific basing concepts are developed. The Department of State and the Department of Defense, working with other appropriate agencies, should assess this relationship, especially the implications of SICBM and garrison rail basing systems for verification of our START proposals. A preliminary report on this subject should be submitted to me by October 1, 1987. (TS)

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