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WASHINGTON

June 16, 1987

NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 279

The Annual Report on Nuclear Weapons Surety (U)

The Joint Department of Defense/Department of Energy (DOD/DOE) Annual Report on Nuclear Weapons Surety for 1986 has been reviewed and approved. (U)

The Annual Report is a prime vehicle for informing me of those issues concerning the safety and security of nuclear weapons and for bringing to my attention deficiencies that need to be addressed. The 1987 Annual Report should be provided for review by April 30, 1988. As a minimum, the major activities which should continue to be covered include:

- Nuclear weapons security;
- Nuclear weapons safety;
- Nuclear weapons use control/denial;
- Personnel reliability assurance programs;
- Emergency response; and
- Inspection/evaluation programs. (C)

The obligation of the Department of Defense and Department of Energy to protect public health and safety requires dual-agency judgment and responsibility for safety, security, and control of nuclear weapons. To reflect this important check-and-balance role, the surety report should highlight any significant areas of disagreement and explain the steps being taken to resolve the issues. (U)

National Security Decision Directive Number 230, Annual Report on Nuclear Weapons Surety, is hereby superseded. (C)

Richard Reagan

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Declassified on 3/4/96
under provisions of E.O. 12958
by [redacted], National Security Council