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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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February 22, 1988

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 301

ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE UNITED STATES NUCLEAR RISK REDUCTION CENTER (U)

Policy

The United States will establish and maintain a national Nuclear Risk Reduction Center (U.S. NRRC), which will operate in accordance with the Agreement Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Establishment of Nuclear Risk Reduction Centers (NRRC Agreement) of September 15, 1987. The U.S. objective is to use the NRRC Agreement to enhance U.S. efforts to reduce further the risk of conflict with the Soviet Union that could result from accident, miscalculation, or misunderstanding. The U.S. NRRC will provide a permanent, rapid, reliable, and precise means by which the United States and the Soviet Union may transmit notifications agreed between the two Parties, including those required under certain existing and possible future arms control and confidence-building agreements. The U.S. NRRC will not supplant existing channels of communication with the Soviet Union, nor will it have a crisis management role.

Background

Under the Agreement, which is of unlimited duration, each Party will establish an NRRC in its capital, and will staff its NRRC as it deems appropriate. The U.S. and Soviet NRRCs will communicate at the government-to-government level by direct satellite communication links capable of rapidly transmitting full texts and graphics. To help ensure the smooth operation of the NRRCs, the representatives of the Parties will hold regular meetings of the NRRCs at least once each year.

The Parties will use the NRRCs to transmit notifications identified in Protocol I of the NRRC Agreement. At present, these notifications consist of:

- Notifications of ballistic missile launches under Article IV of the U.S.-Soviet Agreement on Measures to Reduce the Risk of Outbreak of Nuclear War (Accidents Measures Agreement) of September 30, 1986;

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- Notifications of ballistic missile launches under paragraph 1 of Article VI of the U.S.-Soviet Agreement on the Prevention of Incidents On and Over the High Seas (INCSEA Agreement) of May 25, 1972; and
- Unspecified "goodwill" notifications which may be provided at the discretion of either Party or as agreed. (U)

In accordance with Article II of the NRR Agreement, this list of notifications may be altered by agreement between the Parties, as relevant new agreements are reached. (U)

The Parties also have agreed to use the NRRCs to transmit notifications required under the U.S.-Soviet Treaty on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty) of December 8, 1987. The first notifications may take place within one day of entry into force of the INF Treaty; in any event, they must take place no later than 30 days after entry into force. (U)

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Policy Principles

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Implementation

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To implement the above policy principles the following responsibilities are assigned:

- (a) The U.S. NRRC will be located in the Department of State.  
(U)
- (b) Overall responsibility for the operation of the U.S. NRRC will reside with a Department of State official of Assistant Secretary rank. The official will be nominated by the Department of State and approved by the President. His title will be Director, United States Nuclear Risk Reduction Center (U.S. NRRC). (U)

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(g) Day-to-day management of the U.S. NRRC will be handled by a Staff Director selected by the Department of State. In consultation with the Director, U.S. NRRC, the Department of Defense shall provide on a non-reimbursable basis a Deputy Staff Director -- preferably, a senior military officer with relevant operational experience. (U)

(h) The Department of State shall be responsible for staffing the U.S. NRRC and training of its personnel, as necessary, to maintain a 24-hour watch. The Director, U.S. NRRC, may request other relevant agencies to provide additional officers to the NRRC on a non-reimbursable basis. (U)

(i) The Department of Defense will provide technical assistance for the implementation of Protocol II of the NRRC Agreement, as requested by the Department of State on a cost-reimbursable basis. (U)

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