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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION  
DIRECTIVE 91

April 19, 1983



STRATEGIC FORCES MODERNIZATION PROGRAM CHANGES (U)

NSDD-12 dated October 1, 1981 outlined the overall U.S. Strategic Forces Modernization Program. The following guidance supplements NSDD-12 in certain key areas, replaces item 5 of that directive on Land-Based Missile Deployment, and adds item 6 on Small ICBM and item 7 on Hardness and Fratricide R&D.

1. Strategic Communications. Improve, as a first priority, command, control, and communications for our strategic forces that can survive and endure before, during and after conditions of severe stress or nuclear attack. Also, methods should be investigated in which the planned improvements could be augmented by low-cost back-up systems. (U)
2. Bomber Force. Continue modernization of our bomber force, consisting of B-1Bs and Advanced Technology Bombers that could penetrate present and future Soviet air defenses. To further redress the strategic balance, advanced cruise missiles will be deployed on the B-52Hs. The first squadron of B-1Bs will achieve initial operational capability (IOC) in 1986. Deployment of the first squadron of Advanced Technology Bombers will take place in the early 1990's. (S)
3. Submarine-Launched Missile. Continue the Trident II (D-5) missile and Trident submarine programs on a high priority basis. (S)
4. Strategic Defense. In addition to the program that has been directed, expand R&D into, and undertake the most rigorous examination of, all forms of defense against ballistic missiles. This includes work on penetration aids, such as decoys, to cope with potential Soviet breakout from the ABM Treaty as well as work to assist us in evaluating Soviet BMD activity, and to provide an option for increasing our ICBM survivability. Also, with respect specifically to options for the future defense of

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land-based ICBMs, the Department of Defense will provide a report on its progress in developing BMD options by October 1, 1983. This report was previously tasked by NSDD-69. (S)

5. Land-Based Missile Deployment. Complete development and initiate production of the Peacekeeper missile on a priority basis. Sufficient missiles and associated ground support equipment will be produced to support an operational deployment of 100 missiles. These 100 missiles will be deployed in existing Minuteman silos in Wyoming and Nebraska supported by Francis E. Warren Air Force Base. Specifically, the first 50 missiles will replace the Minuteman missiles in the 400th Strategic Missile Squadron (SMS). In turn, the second 50 will replace the Minuteman missiles in the 319th SMS. The IOC of the Peacekeeper missile in this basing plan will be achieved in 1986 for operational capability by 1989. (S)
6. Small ICBM. Initiate immediately the engineering design of a small, single warhead ICBM. If strategic and technical considerations warrant, such a missile should be ready for full scale development in 1987 and potential deployment in the early 1990's. (U)
7. Hardness and Fratricide R&D. Undertake a specific program to resolve uncertainties regarding silo and shelter hardness applicable to Peacekeeper and small missiles, a study of fratricide effects, and investigation of different types of land-based vehicles and launchers, particularly hardened vehicles. R&D on Deep Underground Basing will continue because of its application to a secure reserve force, and its potential for survivable C3. (S)

This NSDD supersedes NSDDs 35 and 69.

Ronald Reagan

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