

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

NSC/Soubers to Smith 09/06/2002  
By ksr Date 02/08/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

TOP SECRET/NODIS

January 14, 1972

National Security Study Memorandum 144

TO:                   The Secretary of State  
                      The Secretary of Defense  
                      The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT:            Soviet Naval Deployments to the Caribbean


The President has directed that a study be undertaken to evaluate the effects on US interests of Soviet naval deployments to Cuba and the Caribbean in the context of world-wide Soviet naval deployments. The study should consider options to advance or protect US interests.

The study should address such specific issues as:

- the frequency and nature of Soviet naval deployments to Cuba since 1969;
- Soviet political and military objectives;
- the effects of such deployments on US national security, on US-Soviet relations, and on inter-American security and US inter-American policy;
- current US surveillance and monitoring practices and possible changes to such practices, including their funding implications;
- other possible courses of action aimed at countering, reducing or possibly eliminating future Soviet naval deployments to Cuba and the Caribbean and their implications for US-Soviet relations;
- the United Kingdom's role in the area;
- US base requirements in the area and the effects on those requirements of alternative courses of action considered in the study.

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The study should be prepared on a priority, need-to-know basis by the NSC Politico-Military Interdepartmental Group. The study should be submitted to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs no later than February 11, 1972, for consideration by the NSC Senior Review Group.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. A. Kissinger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Henry A. Kissinger