

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

NSC/Soubers to Smith 09/06/2002

By LL Date 02/09/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

~~SECRET/EXDIS~~

February 15, 1974

National Security Study Memorandum 194

TO: The Secretary of Defense
The Deputy Secretary of State
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency

SUBJECT: Review of Certain Conventional Weapons

The President has directed a review of those conventional weapons which, because of their alleged indiscriminate effects or inhumaneness, have become the subject of international discussions within the context of the Conference on International Humanitarian Law.

The review should place primary emphasis on incendiary weapons and be conducted in two parts.

Part One should consider the military aspects of each of these types of weapons (for example, incendiaries, fragmentation munitions, delayed action munitions). It should evaluate the U.S. capability and the capabilities of other countries in these weapons; their military utility; the extent to which the military objectives involved in their use could be accomplished by other means, and the implications of utilizing such means; and any relationships between the various types of munitions.

This part of the review should be conducted by the Department of Defense, in cooperation with other agencies as appropriate. It should be completed by April 19, 1974 in order to provide the essential background for Part Two of the overall review.

Part Two of the review should (1) review the current position (including rationale) of the United States and of other countries on the use of these weapons; and (2) develop and assess the advantages and disadvantages of both possible arms control options and illustrative law of war options with respect to these weapons, in order to provide the basis for consideration of the issues attendant on the deliberations of the Conference on International Humanitarian Law.

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This part of the review should be conducted by an NSC Ad Hoc Group, comprising representatives of the addressees of this memorandum and the NSC Staff and chaired by the representative of the Secretary of State.

The NSC Ad Hoc Group's report together with the paper prepared by the Department of Defense in Part One of this review should be forwarded by May 21, 1974 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 long horizontal stroke at the end.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff