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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

March 8, 1971

Dear Dick:

You and the entire intelligence community are to be commended for NIE 11-8-70, "Soviet Forces for Inter-continental Attack." It is a considerable improvement over last year's version and reflects the large and imaginative effort which all of you have obviously put into it. I find particularly useful:

-- The frequent sharply-defined, clearly argued discussions of various contested issues.



25X1

-- The alternative force models based on explicit differences in underlying assumptions and the attempt to define which were the more likely models.

-- The quantitative detail for each model which illustrates the differences between the models and gives an operational meaning to some of the general statements.

Again, my congratulations to you and those in the intelligence agencies who worked on NIE 11-8-70 for a job well done.

Sincerely,

NSS/NSC Review Completed

The Honorable Richard Helms
Director
Central Intelligence Agency

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

A

SECRET

ACTION

March 5, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *HK*

SUBJECT: Letter to Dick Helms on NIE 11-8-70, "Soviet Forces for Intercontinental Attack"

✓ Attached at Tab A for your signature is a letter to Dick Helms which congratulates him and the intelligence community for the significant improvement in this year's NIE 11-8-70.

I earlier transmitted the NIE to you. As I noted then, this year's NIE is a great improvement over last year's effort. A letter from you to Helms and the intelligence community would recognize their efforts and help to continue this year's changes.

As I wrote you before, the NIEs can still be improved. I will see Helms personally within a few weeks to discuss how this can be accomplished.

Ray Price concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to Helms at Tab A.

SECRET

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SECRET

February 25, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. Raymond Price

FROM:

Barry Carter *bc*

SUBJECT:

Congratulatory Letter from the President to
Richard Helms

We would like your approval on the attached letter from the President to Richard Helms. The covering memorandum to the President from Dr. Kissinger explains the situation.

If you have any questions, please call me at extension 6923. The original letter is on the green White House stationery which the President uses. If necessary, I can obtain the original or can also get you a copy of the earlier memorandum from Dr. Kissinger to the President.

Thank you.

*OK
2/25/71*

SECRET

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SECRETACTION
February 24, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: K. Wayne Smith *KWS*SUBJECT: Letter from the President to Richard Helms on
NIE 11-8-70, "Soviet Forces for Intercontinental Attack"

Attached at Tab A is a memorandum to the President recommending that he sign an accompanying letter to Richard Helms which congratulates him and the intelligence community for their work on NIE 11-8-70, "Soviet Forces for Intercontinental Attack."

This follows up your previous memorandum (Tab B) to the President forwarding the NIE with comments. On my covering memorandum (Tab C) to you then, you indicated that you wanted the President rather than yourself to send a congratulatory letter to Helms. As you instructed, the attached letter is very complimentary and without nit-picking. The letter does, however, highlight some particular improvements in the NIE. I believe this not only gives the letter some substance, but it reinforces the new approaches which so much improved the document.

As you also instructed, I will set up a meeting for you with Dick Helms in a few weeks to discuss further necessary improvements in the NIE. I will prepare talking points for the meeting and, after the meeting, will prepare a memorandum from you to Helms detailing the changes which need to be made.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab A.

SECRET